

The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

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Published Since 1877

Islam grows rapidly in Europe

"Stories of conversion are all too rare"

By Mike Creswell

BRUSSELS, Belgium (BP) — Muslims are growing rapidly throughout Western Europe, and feeble Christian churches so far have been unable to respond.

Estimates of the number of Muslims in the region range from 6 million to 12 million people. The Geographical Society of Great Britain puts the number of Muslims or those coming from Islamic cultures at about 7.5 million.

Most immigrants from north Africa, the Middle East, or Asia came legally — many as temporary workers who stayed. European nations have toughened laws, but illegal immigration also continues. And high birthrates among Muslim immigrants will fuel rapid Muslim growth in Europe for years, experts say.

Already France's Muslim population, estimated at 2 million, is the second-largest faith group in the country after Catholicism. Muslims far outnumber Catholics who attend church regularly. In parts of southern France the populace exceeds 25 percent Muslim.

In England, more than 1.2 million Muslims make Islam the third-largest faith group after Anglicans and Catholics. Often funded by oil-rich Middle Eastern nations like Saudi Arabia, Muslims have built hundreds of mosques across the continent. Mosques in England exceed 1,500, British Muslims say.

In London they have increased from two in 1970 to 400. In Brussels, Belgium, the city's principal mosque sits a few blocks from the European Community headquarters in the heart of the city.

Although relatively few Europeans have converted to Islam, the number is growing, according to Bill Wagner, consultant for the Foreign Mission Board on evangelism and church growth. And Muslims have targeted Europe as one of their key areas of outreach to non-Muslims.

Still, adherence to Islam weakens among second-generation Muslims, said Robert Somerville, president of the French Baptist Federation. Citing a sociological study, he said that while about half of first-generation Muslims say their daily prayers as demanded by the faith, only 3 percent of their children do. About 45 percent of first-generation parents read the Koran, Islam's holy book, but only about 13 percent of their children do.

But Europe is a fertile mission field for committed Muslims. Unlike Muslim growth in the United States, where Christian groups have both numbers and influence, Muslim growth in Europe is taking place in a virtual spiritual vacuum. "The

worldwide body of Christ needs to discard the myth that Europe is a Christian continent," writes researcher Dudley Woodberry, professor of Islamic studies at Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, Calif.

In many areas white Europeans and their churches have moved out of areas settled by immigrants. Many abandoned church buildings are now Islamic mosques, including the former church of William Carey, the English missionary who launched the modern Christian missionary era through his work in India.

European Muslims widely outnumber evangelical Christians. Cathedrals abound in Europe, but Muslims even outnumber practicing Catholics. An uneasy mix of zealous Muslims with Western Europe's weak evangelical presence, ubiquitous secularism and watered-down, waning Catholicism has drastically changed some neighborhoods as well as the texture of the entire region.

Still, some mission groups and some German churches have reached out to Muslims. As a result more Turkish Christians live in Germany than Turkey, said R. Max Kershaw of the Lausanne Committee for World Evangelization.

But because of their own needs, Baptists only now are realizing the importance of Muslim ministry, Wagner said. "World events such as the Gulf crisis have made European Baptists rethink their mission to Muslims."

The most important fact for Southern Baptists to know about Islam in Europe, Wagner said, is that Islam considers Europe its No. 1 mission field. "Many of the people I visit in Islamic countries tell me they feel called to be missionaries for Islam in Europe," he said.

Some workers said Southern Baptists need to understand the challenge Islam poses in Europe and do more to meet it.

"I find that more and more groups are becoming interested in Muslims," said an American missionary based in the Paris area. About a fourth of his congregation is comprised of converted Muslims.

"I notice more and more young people — you see it in all the groups — who're becoming interested in the Muslims. Maybe that's more from the Europeans than from the Americans. I don't know if the United States is completely aware of the need yet."

Islamic fundamentalism, which has moved the Muslim world towards more stringent beliefs, also has toughened possibilities for response to the gospel. A German mission agency reported the number of Muslims there who consider themselves

"religious" has jumped from 58 to 70 percent.

"Many Muslims reject Islam, yet they don't accept the church either. They become secular like most of France is secular. Still, because of their religious roots, they're left with a spiritual hunger," said the associate pastor of a French church that has reached many Muslims for Christ.

"Conversion is an enriching experience" for those who accept Christ, he said. "For young people who come out of Islam, there's a new perspective on life — another reality of life. They're liberated from the yoke of Islam."

A Southern Baptist worker in northern Europe said evangelism among Muslims must include entire families because people who leave Islam most often are renounced by their families and can face severe persecution.

The Foreign Mission Board has four missionaries assigned to Muslim work in Germany and is placing two in France. Also, several nonresidential missionaries in Europe work with Muslim people groups. A couple has moved to Belgium for a year-long survey of Muslim ministry possibilities.

Since much of this work is sensitive and fraught with danger, participants are reluctant to get publicity. In one case people at a conference on Muslim evangelism got threatening letters later. Christian workers with Muslims in one country moved because of harassment from Muslims.

In England the mission board is helping sponsor a school to train Iranians for evangelism in their own country. Half a dozen Iranians are studying now. Several Southern Baptist workers are teaching classes at the school.

The European Baptist Federation has had a Muslim Awareness Committee for six years and sponsors meetings to encourage outreach to Muslims by churches.

Only a few churches have been able to reach Muslims, however. One is a Baptist church in northern France. There, a combination of personal outreach by members, evangelism-minded leaders and spirited, open-format worship services have been effective in reaching Muslims.

Muslims can be reached for Christ, but usually only after long, patient friendship, said one evangelical missionary in France.

On average, each conversion takes 15 months, he said. But he shortens that time by training converted Muslims to become evangelists themselves.

Visions often accompany Muslim conversions. An Iranian woman said

she was injured in an explosion and was in a coma when two angels came to help her. She said she did not truly understand the experience until she arrived in England and a Christian woman told her about Christ.

When she attended her first church service, she wept. "The beauty of this church was love I'd never experienced. This was real love," she said. Now a Christian, she said she's "waiting for the Christian revolution in Iran."

Such stories of conversion are all too rare, say many who work with Muslims. Yet response is possible,

especially among second-generation Muslims. And some Christian workers believe even some Muslims who recently arrived in Europe are open to the gospel.

Workers acknowledge that Muslim evangelism will be slow and potentially dangerous, even in the context of a continent where all evangelism is slow.

Until Christians set a higher priority on Muslim evangelism, it could hardly be otherwise.

Creswell writes for FMB.



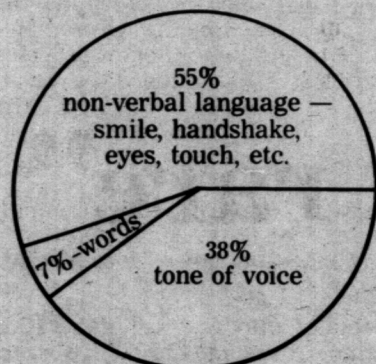
MUSLIMS IN EUROPE — The Arabic script advertising an Islamic food market suggests a Middle East street scene, but this street is in Paris. Muslims are growing rapidly throughout Western Europe. Estimates of Muslims in the region range from 6 million to 12 million people. Already France's Muslim population, estimated at some 2 million, is the second-largest faith group in the country after Catholicism. (BP photo by Don Rutledge)

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Guy Henderson

Communication

I just could not accept it. When I think of communication, words come to my mind. You talk. Now some authority tells me that words constitute only 7 percent of communication. For a man who makes his living from words, that was a bitter pill to swallow.



The man who has bold ideas is no better off, unless he can express them, than the man who has none. Thought must be communicated if it is to be effective. This communication takes body language as well as words.

Did you ever try to communicate with your dog using words only? You may say, "Rover, it's a proven scientific fact that women have a tendency to get upset when you chew on the sofa." He will wag his tail and thoroughly agree with you. Now if you say, "Off, go," in the right tone he understands.

Speech is the main bridge between people; however, over that bridge travel thoughts and feelings. It is vital to communication. It gives us confidence and relieves our tension. It is the WD 40 for good human relations.

Moreover, you don't have to be brilliant to communicate well. Some of the best never heard of Demosthenes, Webster, or Churchill. They just know when to speak and when to remain silent. They know the value of a smile or a touch. They are real communicators.

Some people think they will be remembered by their words of enticing wisdom and perhaps a few will. Most of us will seldom be recalled because of our speeches, our declarations, or for our voluminous words.

Dr. Webb Brame was pastor of Yazoo City for 27 years. During that time he preached hundreds of sermons but not too many people could tell you what he preached about. Countless members, friends, and others could testify of his love, his demeanor, his ability to be a friend, or his winsome spirit. He impressed me one day as I saw him minister in a crowded hospital room. He touched, he smiled, he chided, he comforted. I left the hospital that day saying, "Lord, I'll never be able to be like that." Like so many others, I don't remember his words; I just know he communicated.

Every Christian is given the assignment of communication. I've met greeters, ushers at the door of churches who communicated a welcome with their body language and their tone. In one church where I was a member for a season, we had people who would walk an extra block just to enter the door where Mr. Greeter, par excellence, ministered. It was worth it.

Now, believe it, this ties in with witnessing. We can master the words of the four spiritual laws, witness

training, or whatever; but we will be remembered by far more than our words. Dr. Baker James Cauthen said it well to missionaries, "You can go 18,000 miles, but it's the last 18 inches that really count."

Communication is vital between husband and wife, parents and children, children and aging parents. Your joy, peace of mind and your ministry will hit the shoals or sail peacefully over turbulent seas depending on communication. I think it was Edgar Guest who expressed it so well.

The tone of voice

*It is not so much what you say,
As the manner in which you say it.
It is not so much the language you use,*

*As the tone in which you convey it.
The words may be mild and fair,
And the words may pierce like a dart,
The words may be soft as the summer air,*

*And the tone may break the heart.
For words but come from the mind,
And grow by study and art;
But the tones leap forth from the inner self*

*And reveal the state of the heart.
Whether you know it or not,
Whether you mean or care,
Gentleness, kindness, love and hate,
Envy and anger are there.
Then would you quarrels avoid,
And in peace and love rejoice,
Keep anger not only out of your words,
But keep it out of your voice.*

Of course, Solomon knew all this 3,000 years ago when he said, "A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver."

Guest opinion . . .

An answer to a prisoner's prayer

By Richard Ryan

If you are a Christian, you already know that living the Christian life can be difficult even under the most favorable conditions; but when you are separated from family by hundreds of miles, driven like an animal into sordid confines of concrete and barbed wire, set hopelessly adrift in a sea of society's worst offenders — murderers, rapists, thieves, drug dealers — being a staunch Christian becomes almost impossible.

It is exactly this situation I found myself in during the summer of 1987. I had now reached the very bottom of life. The only way for me to go was up. I turned to God. Turning to God was the easy part of becoming a Christian, I was soon to learn.

Unfortunately, there is a tragic lack of encouragement for most Christian prisoners, for the chaplain's department of almost every prison is woefully understaffed and the task of ministering to the spiritual needs of such a huge population is simply overwhelming. I looked forward to the five or 10 minutes the chaplain was able

to spend with me when he visited my unit, and I tried never to miss the weekly worship service he held in the dining area. I, like many others, needed much more than this, however; and lacking adequate spiritual support, I soon began drifting away from the new faith I had so gratefully embraced only a few short months previously. I felt empty, depressed, lonely, forgotten. But God was soon to remind me that he had not abandoned me.

God knew I needed to be taught many things if I were ever to grow in the faith. There were concepts I was completely ignorant of, and many ideas about others were distorted or perverted. He first wanted to teach me that he really cares about even the smallest details of our lives; also that, although at times I felt alone and forgotten, I was never out of his care.

The most important thing he wanted to teach me, however, was love: how to give it and how to receive it. That was the hardest of all lessons for me to learn, for never in my life had I felt really loved by anyone, so it

was unthinkable to me that God could love me, especially after the awful crime I had committed while in a drug-demented state of mind. But I was completely serious that day when I fell on my knees and asked God to take charge of my life . . . and God was certainly serious about doing it!

The amazing thing is that he used an ex-convict to begin teaching me about love: Charles Colson, former Watergate offender and founder of Prison Fellowship Ministries. It was in a seminar conducted in my unit by volunteers from his organization that I began to grow.

"Church call in the dining hall." The guard's voice came over the constant roar in the housing unit; so I picked up my Bible, expecting the usual worship service. When I entered the room, it was not the chaplain that I fully expected to see. Instead, it was a small group of people from the outside world. They were all strangers to me, so I went to a table in the far corner and sat down to watch the preparations for the service. I evident-

ly looked as lonesome and dejected as I felt; because after just a few minutes alone at the table, a statuesque lady with graying hair and soft eyes approached me, extended her hand, and introduced herself. I mumbled my name, but she seemed not to notice my reticence, for she gave me a warm smile and invited me to sit at her table during the seminar.

We began corresponding after the seminar ended, and it became more and more evident that this lady . . .

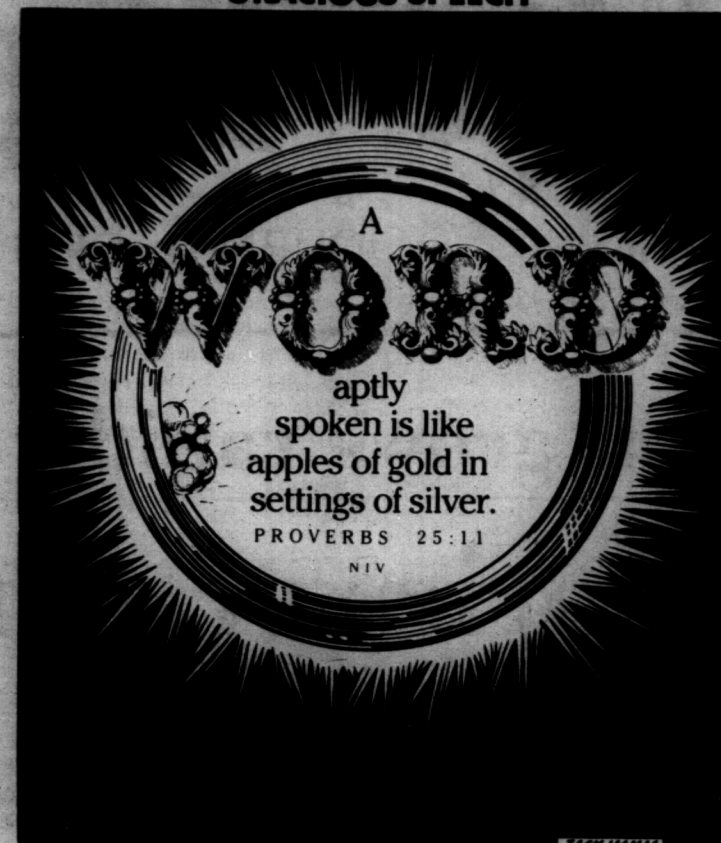
judgmental attitudes. A young man said, "I hate to go to church anymore. Every time I go I feel like I've been beat up." The people in Nazareth heard Jesus preach good news to the poor and proclaim release to the captives, sight to the blind, and liberty to the oppressed. In Sunday School and worship we should accentuate the positive. Negative medicine will not help the patient. Strong Christians will usually have a positive-teaching church behind them. A pound of encouragement will buy more in the marketplace than a ton of condemnation.

How can the Jesus story ever be monotonous? The Fairest of Ten Thousand creates more interest and concern than any other historical figure who ever lived. Can forgiveness, prayer, hope, love, and faith empowered by the Holy Spirit ever be less than sheer excitement? God helps us not to make it dull, numbing to the saints, and tasteless to the sinners. "Behold, we have left all to follow thee," tells us that Jesus was more exciting than fishing, politics, wealth, or anything else the "all" may include.

her name is Carolyn . . . was God's solution to many of my problems and his answer to most of my needs, especially my spiritual needs. For you see, she is not a Christian in name only. She takes the words of Jesus literally and lives by them. She believes that her love of God is best expressed in service to him through serving others, which is why she became active in prison ministry. She has shared God's love with the most unloved people in

(See PRISONER on page 4)

GRACIOUS SPEECH



Hold on to the affirmative

Visiting a church one Sunday evening, the fellowship was good so I tarried longer than usual. Upon leaving, the custodian was using a strange looking key in the door. He explained it would permit people to get out but not in.

I chuckled over this, declaring that I had spent most of my life trying to get people to come in, and now he was locking them out.

In another city, I was speaking one Sunday morning when a crying child caused a slight interruption. One of the ushers told the lady she could take the child to the nursery if she desired.

Later, the pastor and I were discussing the incident when the usher walked up. We commended him for his quick action in the matter. "Ah, yes," he replied, "we can't let anything disturb the monotony of the service." I assumed he meant continuity but, Brother, I was not about to ask him.

Somewhere in this, there is a lesson to be learned. Have we erected barriers that keep people out? Have we made the service so monotonous that few want to get in? These barriers can be pride, a pharisaical spirit, or

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FMB appoints 29; eliminates local members

By Robert H. Dilday

RICHMOND, Va. — Southern Baptist missionaries risk their lives every day in sharing the gospel with the world's people, Maurice Graham recently told Foreign Mission Board trustees.

Graham, a mission worker who returned to the States in December following virtual imprisonment in the U.S. embassy in Kuwait, related his experience to trustees during their Feb. 11-13 meeting.

The mission worker's report was a highlight of the meeting, during which trustees also appointed or reappointed 31 mission workers, voted to eliminate local board members, and expressed appreciation to retiring staff member William R. O'Brien.

Graham and his wife, Laurie, were Southern Baptists' first full-time workers in Kuwait. They and their two sons had been there less than three months when Iraqi troops stormed the country Aug. 2.

Laurie Graham and her sons left Kuwait Sept. 12, but her husband remained in the embassy. During that time he was able to maintain some

contacts with members of the National Evangelical Church in Kuwait City, where he was assistant pastor. The congregation consists of a variety of nationalities, including many Filipinos and Indians. He was released Dec. 9.

"I tried to find a way to get to the church to say goodbye to my congregation — to say, 'You'll be in my prayers and I won't abandon you.' " But he was unsuccessful.

Graham said prior to the invasion many people in Kuwait City were responding to the church's ministries and the future for a successful Christian witness there appeared bright. But "it seemed the invasion crushed the entire dream," he said.

However, he said, in the midst of the upheaval the church found new ways to minister. Members discovered a hospital for handicapped children had been left without services since the invasion and quickly stepped in to provide care.

In addition, as food supplies dwindled in the country, the congregation took bags of rice to needy families, in-

cluding many Muslims, who later visited the church to express thanks.

"For the first time in Kuwait, Muslims were freely coming into our church . . . and would hear the gospel of Jesus Christ and feel and know the sense of love," Graham said.

Now that war has broken out between Iraq and the western allies, "I'm frightened for my congregation," many of whom work in local hospitals, he said. Food supplies continue to diminish and increasing numbers of casualties are being brought to the hospitals. He asked trustees to pray for the church members.

"Continue to pray for all missionaries who risk their lives daily for one reason — to allow every creature on earth to hear the gospel of Jesus Christ," he added.

29 appointed

Trustees named the first mission workers of 1991 during a service at Bruington Baptist Church, a 201-year-old congregation some 40 miles north of Richmond.

The 29 persons appointed there will

serve in 11 countries. Later, trustees reappointed a board staff member and his wife for service in Switzerland. That brings the total Southern Baptist mission force to 3,873 serving in 121 countries.

Local members eliminated.

Action to eliminate the board's 12 local members, which was taken unanimously, will reduce the number of trustees from 91 to 79.

Like most Southern Baptist Convention agencies and institutions, the FMB has maintained seats for local members for decades. In the past, the policy was considered necessary because limited transportation facilities made quorums difficult to obtain and communications did not allow immediate contact between staff and trustees. Now, say some observers, the policy is outmoded and unnecessary.

At the 1990 meeting of the SBC, the convention's Executive Committee asked each of the denomination's agencies and institutions to evaluate the continued necessity of local

members. FMB trustees were told at their December meeting that they would be asked to consider such a change in February. Trustees must receive 30 days' notice prior to voting on a bylaw amendment.

However, John M. Simms, chair of the FMB's administrative committee, said a subsequent study by board staff indicated the SBC must approve such an alteration after the board's vote.

"The SBC bylaws determine the makeup of each of the convention's boards unless their charter provides otherwise," said Simms, a retired attorney from Salem, Va. "Our [the FMB's] charter doesn't provide otherwise. We must ask the SBC to amend our charter."

He said the SBC Executive Committee will ask messengers at the SBC's annual meeting, June 4-6 in Atlanta, to consider the change prior to the report of the convention's committee on nominations, which would have recommended persons to fill local member vacancies. Board officials

(See FMB on page 4)

BREAKTHROUGH: SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR THE 1990s

February 25-26

Broadmoor Church, Jackson

MONDAY

- 10:00 Early Bird Conference: "Innovation for BREAKTHROUGH" — This conference, designed specifically for pastors and church staff, will hear a presentation by Al Riddle, Sunday School Director of Illinois Baptist Convention. The major presentation by Bill Taylor, associate pastor of Prestonwood Church, Dallas, focuses on understanding and responding to the challenge of the 1990s.
- 12:00 BREAKTHROUGH: Sunday School for the 1990s Lunch — "Sunday School: Vision for the 1990s" — Speaker: Mark Short, Executive Director-Treasurer, Louisiana Baptist Convention. (Lunch by pre-registration. Cost \$10 individual, \$25 for three or more staff. Cost includes conference materials.)
- 2:00 The BREAKTHROUGH Sunday School for the 1990s
- MISSISSIPPI: Contrasts and Changes — Orrin Morris, Research Specialist, Home Mission Board, Atlanta
 - BREAKTHROUGH — How It Affects Your Age Groups in Sunday School (Round Robin); Adults; Youth; Children; and Preschool
 - Sunday School Breaking Through Barriers — Eugene L. Gibson, pastor, Mission of Faith Church, Chicago, Illinois
- 4:15 Dismiss
- 6:45 Music and Testimonies — Soldiers Again — Men's Quartet, Daniel Memorial Church, Jackson, Rick Greene, director
- 7:00 Welcome — Keith Wilkinson, director, Sunday School Dept., MBCB Prayer — Jim Futral, pastor, Broadmoor Church Theme Drama — Drama Group, Broadmoor Church
- 7:15 Special Music
- 7:20 "The Sunday School Growth Challenge" — Mark Short
- 7:45 Adjourn to Conferences
- 8:00-9:30 Conferences for Pastors, Staff, Sunday School Age-Group and General Offices

TUESDAY

- 9:00 General Session — "Sunday School Growth for the 1990s" — Andy Anderson, Developer of Action and the Growth Spiral, Sunday School Board, Nashville
- 9:45-11:45 Conferences
1. Advanced Growth Spiral — Andy Anderson
 2. Base Growth Spiral — Ken Marler, Growth Consultant, BSSB
 3. Adult Growth Conferences
 4. Youth Growth Conferences
 5. Children's Growth Conferences
 6. Preschool Growth Conferences
- 11:45-12:30 Lunch (purchase)
- 12:30-3:30 Conferences (continued)

The Second Front Page

The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, February 21, 1991

Published Since 1877

FMB appoints three couples with Mississippi connections

RICHMOND, Va. — The Foreign Mission Board, SBC, named 29 people as missionaries Feb. 12 at Bruington (Va.) Baptist Church. Six had Mississippi connections.

Alvin and Mary Doyle will live in Nigeria, where he will start and develop churches and they will be involved in a variety of outreach ministries.

Since 1985 he has been pastor of Puckett Church.

Born and reared in New Orleans, La., Doyle is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Francis Doyle Sr. of Metairie, La. He received the bachelor of arts and master of education degrees from Southeastern Louisiana University and the master of religious education degree from New Orleans Seminary.

Also born in New Orleans, Mrs. Doyle, the former Mary Simmons, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John R. Simmons Sr. of Carriere. Both she and her husband consider Picayune their hometown and Roseland Park there as home church. She attended Southeastern Louisiana University and Pearl River Community College.

Since 1983, she has been an accounts specialist with the Mississippi Baptist Convention in Jackson. The Doyles have one grown son, Dwayne.

Tommy and Donna Beard will live in Mexico, where he will start and develop churches and they will be involved in a variety of outreach ministries. Since 1989 he has been pastor of Clear Creek Church, Shubuta.

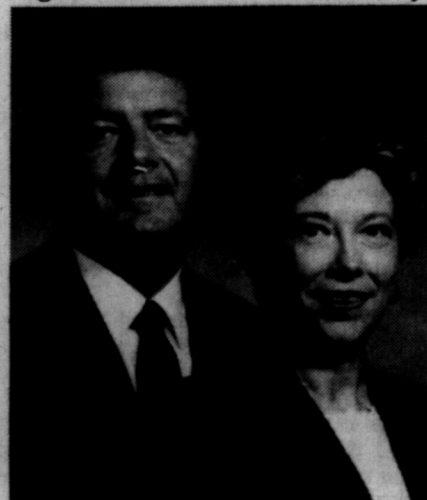
Born in Delhi, La., Beard is the son of Ruth Beard of Transylvania, La. He received the bachelor of arts degree from Louisiana College and master of divinity degree from New Orleans Seminary.

Mrs. Beard, the former Donna Mickelborough, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Mickelborough of Slidell, La. She attended Louisiana College. She has been a private music teacher and an adult and children's choir director.

The Beards have two children, Amanda Katherine and Savannah Ellen.

Danny and Brenda Caldwell will live in equatorial Brazil, where he will

(See THREE COUPLES on page 4)



Alvin and Mary Doyle



Danny and Brenda Caldwell



Tommy and Donna Beard

Elder, trustees settle dispute over tapings, but not letter

By Greg Warner

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Lloyd Elder and his trustees have come to an agreement about unauthorized telephone tapings that Elder made, but they have not settled a dispute about a controversial letter from Elder that was leaked to the press.

Elder, president of the SBC Sunday School Board, and four of the board's trustee officers released a joint statement Jan. 29, one week before the trustees' semi-annual meeting, in which they expressed substantial agreement about the disputed telephone tapings.

But after meeting with Elder and two of his associates behind closed doors Feb. 4, the trustee officers emerged saying they had not determined how Elder's Jan. 10 letter to trustees, in which he refused to resign under pressure, later appeared on local television. Both Elder and trustees deny leaking the letter.

Only Elder, his administrative assistant Joyce Byrd, board attorney Robert Thomas and a handful of trustees reportedly had access to the letter Jan. 11, when Elder gave it to trustee officers during a Nashville meeting.

The letter was addressed to the board's general administration committee and mailed by Elder from outside the board offices Jan. 11. However, local television reporter Tom Lee of WSMV read from an

original copy of the letter on the air Jan. 12, before most GAC members could have received it through the mail.

In separate closed-door meetings Feb. 4, Elder, Byrd, and the GAC members each denied leaking the letter to the reporter, said GAC chairman Dan Collins.

"It's a miracle!" Collins quipped. Reporters were barred from more than three hours of closed-door deliberations by the GAC Feb. 4, during which the committee discussed the letter as well as the search for a new board president.

Afterward, Collins would give no details of the executive session because, he said, trustees did not wish to rehash "past issues." However, the unauthorized release of Elder's letter is still an issue, Collins said. "If there is a security leak of that kind, the GAC would want to know about it," he explained.

Following the GAC's meeting, Collins and at least two other committee members approached Lee, who was reporting on the meeting, and asked how he got the letter. Lee declined to reveal his source.

The issue of the telephone tapings first surfaced publicly Jan. 17 during a meeting in which the full trustee board voted to accept Elder's offer to retire next year rather than face dismissal. In the meeting, Elder

denied taping telephone calls without permission, but the trustee officers offered sworn statements to the contrary.

The Jan. 29 meeting with the officers was scheduled to resolve the dispute. In the joint statement released afterward, Elder corrected his earlier response, which he said was based on his memory at the time.

"After a review of the events," the statement said, Elder acknowledged taping three conversations without permission between Nov. 1 and Nov. 15, 1990. At least some of the calls involved trustee chairman William Anderson of Clearwater, Fla., and board attorney Robert Thomas of Nashville, who the statement said were not told the recording was being made.

The calls were recorded over a speaker phone with a hand-held dictation machine for accurate follow-up on business matters and were erased afterward, the statement said. The tapes were replayed only for conference-call participants, which included other board employees. Two of those participants provided trustees with the sworn affidavits.

The secret tapings were one of three reasons trustees cited in forcing Elder's early retirement Jan. 17.

Warner is associate editor of the Florida Baptist Witness.



Elizabeth Holmes, director of information services of the Christian Action Commission, places the first "Precious Feet" pin made available to Mississippi Baptists on the lapel of Eddie Hamilton, president of Mississippi Baptist Convention, while Paul Jones, executive director-treasurer of the Christian Action Commission, looks on.

Sanctity of human life symbol available to Baptist churches

At their December 11 meeting, the trustees of the Christian Action Commission voted to develop a means of affirming the sanctity of human life. The "Precious Feet" pin may be worn as a visual witness of your stand for the sanctity of human life.

The "Precious Feet" are the size of those of a child ten weeks after being conceived. This is the average age for abortions in the United States. When you wear the pin, you will be affirm-

ing your belief in the sanctity of every human life.

The Christian Action Commission is making the "Precious Feet" pins available to Mississippi Baptists at the cost of \$1 plus 50 cents for postage and handling. Prices for multiple pins are available from the Christian Action Commission, P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205 or by calling 968-3800.

PRISONER

From page 2

society: prisoners.

She has shared it with me without stint.

Her letters to me have been full of encouragement; for she is generous in praising me when I win even a small spiritual victory, yet has the courage to point out my weaknesses in a spirit of kindness and love. She drives 300 miles round-trip to visit me once a month, many times alone; and she is 75 years young! Our visits are times of sharing spiritual insights, discussing scripture, and praising God for who he is and what he has done through Jesus Christ and what he continues to do in our lives through the presence of the Holy Spirit.

So you see, God used Carolyn to teach me the most important lesson a person can ever learn: how to love; how to accept it from God and how to pass it on to others. By loving me herself, she has made me know God loves me, and that enabled me to love freely, honestly, without fear of hurt or rejection. She is my helper, my guide, my teacher, and most of all, my friend. Her coming to me is proof that God never, never forgets his children. Since my meeting Carolyn, the boundaries of my mind and the scope of my faith have been enlarged by the Christian authors she has introduced me to and the books she has made available to me. I have drunk deep from Saint Augustine and Thomas a Kempis, Paul Tillich, and Leslie Weatherhead, C. S. Lewis, Francis

Schaeffer, and Dietrich Bonhoeffer, to name only a few. What inspiration I have found in them... what challenges to Christian growth!

Another important step in my spiritual growth has been made possible through her efforts. Knowing of my decision to serve God in the Christian ministry when I am released from prison, she made all the arrangements for me, while I am still in prison, to take correspondence courses that will lead to a degree in theology and Bible. By using my time productively now to study and learn, I hope to be fully prepared to serve God effectively when I have served my sentence.

It is apparent that God has answered my prayer for him to take charge of my life, and he has done it in a way I could never have dreamed of. He brought together two people of different ages, different backgrounds, different lifestyles and added to both our lives a most precious ingredient: a friendship that has nurtured our spiritual growth and brought us both true joy. And now my life, even as a prisoner, has meaning and direction and purpose.

My one prayer is that I, too, will one day come to mean as much in the spiritual growth of another struggling Christian as Carolyn has meant to me. That I, like her, will prepare myself to become a worthy vessel that God can use to teach another human being the most valuable lesson of all, how to love. One thing is certain, throughout all eternity, I will remember that I was in prison and Carolyn visited me.

Ryan is a resident of Parchman.

Volunteers still needed to go to Zimbabwe

Mississippi WMU still needs several volunteers to go to Zimbabwe, Africa, April 8-23, 1991, according to Monica Keathley, consultant. Volunteers are needed to teach VBS to the missionary children, and another group is needed to work in the kitchen and dining hall. The cost for the trip is approximately \$2,500-2,700. Anyone interested in this project is asked to call Miss Keathley at 968-3800 by next Monday, February 25.

FMB

From page 3

said they anticipate approval of the change.

While the action eliminates 12 Virginians from the FMB, Virginia will retain three members as state representatives. Local members will serve until the end of their current terms of office.

O'Brien retires.

In his report to the board, President R. Keith Parks praised William O'Brien, who is retiring as executive director of public affairs, concluding a 26-year association with the board. He will assume the directorship of a newly-formed global strategies center at Samford University's Beeson School of Divinity in Birmingham, Ala., on March 1.

O'Brien, and his wife, Dellanna, executive director of Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union, were appointed missionaries to Indonesia in 1962, serving there with Parks.

Parks said he brought O'Brien to the board staff because he "knew him to be spiritually sensitive, prayerful, Bible-saturated, Christ-honoring, humble, a pilgrim servant, a man of faith, evangelistic, creative, gifted and one who had a full understanding of and commitment to Southern Baptists' way of doing missions."

Parks added: "No one will ever know... the degree to which he has been a stimulant, a spiritual mentor and guide challenging my best thinking and planting ideas that have evolved into mission strategy...."

"We are always in need of a few who have daring faith, spiritual courage, farsighted vision, holy restlessness and selfless love that will enable them to be challengers, stimulators and encouragers to the rest of us. He is the best combination of these characteristics of anyone I know."

In other action, trustees:

* Allocated more than \$70,000 from the 1989 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions to support new ministries in Eastern Europe. The funds will finance short-term and career mission workers in the region, said Isam E. Ballenger, the board's vice president for Europe, the Middle East and North Africa.

* Heard a report from the Europe, Middle East and North Africa committee that it has asked board staff to "do a mid-season evaluation of theological needs in Eastern Europe." Committee chair P. Steve Hardy said the staff will report at the board's April meeting "on what might be the situation concerning funding."

Hardy, of Burlington, N.C., also said the committee will evaluate the board's ability to respond quickly to "fast-breaking" evangelistic opportunities around the world. Both actions followed comments to committee members by Paul Negrut, pastor of Second Baptist Church of Oradea, Romania, who discussed needs in that country and his church's proposals to meet them.

* Accepted the findings of a special committee indicating board staff did not engage in denominational politics during the year preceding the 1990 annual meeting of the SBC in New Orleans.

The committee's report was in response to a motion made at the 1990 SBC meeting by "Cactus Jack" Cagle of Houston. His motion asked trustees of each SBC agency and institution to determine "whether their entity, its facilities, assets, or personnel were used during the year 1989-90 to engage in any political activity within the Southern Baptist Convention in supporting or opposing candidates for office... or lobbying on any controversial issues scheduled to come before this convention...."

Gary A. Smith of Enid, Okla., chair of the committee named by FMB trustees to study the matter, said his

panel concluded there was "no evidence of the use of Foreign Mission Board personnel, facilities or assets during the year 1989-90 to engage in any political activity within the Southern Baptist Convention...."

Board chair William L. Hancock of Louisville, Ky., said the report will be referred to the SBC Executive Committee, which presumably will present it at the 1991 SBC annual meeting.

To study relocation.

* Were told Executive Vice President Donald R. Kammerdiener has been asked to recommend a process for studying relocation of the board's Richmond headquarters building.

At their December meeting, trustees referred to the administrative committee a motion to consider the merits of such a move. Administrative committee chair Simms said Kammerdiener's assignment is to examine "how such a study should be done — by in-house staff, an outside firm or a combination of both." He also is to provide cost estimates for each option.

Simms said Kammerdiener will report his findings to the administrative committee, which will bring a recommendation to the full board.

Kammerdiener told the Religious Herald, newsjournal of Virginia Baptists, he hoped to provide the information at the board's April meeting. "I'm not bringing a recommendation to move or not to move," he said. "I'm just going to bring a report on how to conduct a study."

* Approved earlier action by the Americas committee asking the board's area director for Brazil and the Caribbean to resign. FMB administrators had requested William L.C. Richardson's resignation, citing the need for stronger administrative skills in the position.

Dilday writes for FMB.

BSSB trustees hear report on "New American Commentary"

By Linda Lawson

NASHVILLE (BP) — Trustees of the Sunday School Board during their Feb. 4-6 semiannual meeting in Nashville heard a report from President Lloyd Elder that income for the first quarter of 1990-91 was above budget and above last year.

In his report, Elder described an early January conversation with his 85-year-old mother in Lubbock, Texas, in which he had outlined mounting differences with trustees.

She listened and then responded, "Son, remember Romans 8:28." The verse states, "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose."

Elder said he had been encouraged by his mother's response and offered the same admonition to trustees and to Southern Baptists.

"An agreement (between the president and trustees) to disagree and to separate does not need to mean the end of our kingdom work because we are kingdom people," said Elder. "We are the kind of people who will keep our eyes upon Jesus Christ and his mission in this world."

In celebrating the centennial of the board's establishment in 1891 and in preparing for a smooth transition of

administrations, Elder said, "We're going to ask God to be working in our lives and in the life of the Baptist Sunday School Board."

Trustees learned release of the first volume of New American Commentary is on schedule for June. Trustees also debated a motion that would have required the word "inerrancy" to be in all advertising of the commentary in Baptist periodicals. The motion was tabled.

After learning two alternate consulting editors for the commentary had been activated to editor status, trustees adopted a motion that the two appear at the August 1991 trustee meeting to be questioned by trustees as the other six editors had been. The alternate editors had been approved by trustees but had not been questioned.

The two are Richard Melick, professor and chairman of the New Testament and Greek departments at Mid-America Seminary in Memphis, Tenn., and Duane A. Garrett, professor of Hebrew and Old Testament at Canadian Baptist Seminary in Cochrane, Alberta, Canada.

Roland Maddox, a real estate developer in Memphis, said: "I don't want us to slide into laxness. I think

we should hold to procedure."

For the first three months of 1990-91, the board generated revenue of \$43.6 million, approximately \$500,000 above the budget of \$43.1 million.

Real revenue growth was registered by Holman Bible publishing, Broadman products and Church Information Systems computer hardware and software. Areas of decline included Convention Press, Genevox music publishing and church literature.

E.V. King, vice president for business and finance, said church literature sales might have met or exceeded budget except that distribution problems in December caused about 4 percent of orders to be delivered late.

Trustees approved changing La Fe Bautista, an adult discipleship training periodical in Spanish from a translation of the English periodical to one that is originally written in Spanish, effective Oct. 1, 1992.

Anderson and Mims were re-elected to a second term as chairman and vice chairman. Burgess Guinn, deputy state statistician in Cornersville, Tenn., was elected recording secretary.

Lawson writes for the BSSB.



She teaches SS by telephone

Lucille Cannon, left, taught the Sunday School lesson weekly over the telephone to Annie Faust, right, for 11 years. Mrs. Cannon, 84, directs the Homebound Department of Sunday School at First Church, Bruce. (There are 44 enrolled in the department.) The reason for the telephone lessons was that Mrs. Faust was hard of hearing. When Mrs. Faust moved to a nursing home, Mrs. Cannon gave her a hearing aid, so now she can hear the teacher there, Grady Ferguson. In the picture above, the first two friends are celebrating Mrs. Faust's 90th birthday.

Rapid response saves lives, opens doors to Somali refugees

By Craig Bird

MOMBASA, Kenya (BP) — Thousands of refugees from Somalia, most severely malnourished and many ill, are being fed and warmed by missionaries in Kenya while United Nations and Red Cross relief programs work through red tape.

The Somali refugees, escaping the apparent final stages of a lengthy civil war in the northeast African country, swarmed aboard rescue boats as the capital city of Mogadishu fell to a coalition of rebel groups in late January.

Southern Baptist missionaries in the Kenyan port of Mombasa heard rumors the weekend of Jan. 20 that boatloads of refugees were sitting in the harbor with little food. Less than a week later, \$45,000 from the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission

Board had been sent and 5,000 people were eating, sleeping under warm blankets and being offered Bibles and Christian tracts.

Somalia is an overwhelmingly Muslim country long hostile to Christianity. Mission researchers estimate there may be no more than a few hundred Somali Christians in a population of more than 8 million people.

But the relief ministry is not an attempt to trade food for conversions, missionary Ralph Bethea stressed.

Food and blankets are being distributed to 79 groups of refugees temporarily housed at an agricultural fairgrounds and another 45 groups scattered around Old Town — the section of Mombasa built on an island. Blankets might seem unnecessary in a seaport near the equator, but the weak, often feverish refugees are us-

ed to 120-degree temperatures in Somalia.

"Most of the people had not eaten in 10 days or longer when we got to them," Bethea said. "There was not much food on the boats and Mogadishu had been under siege for a long time so food was scarce there, too. There have been about 40 deaths even after we started feeding."

Two trucks a day loaded with beans, rice, carrots, kale, pineapple, bananas, tea, sugar, and milk are delivered each day by Kenyan pastors and missionaries. Bethea said, "From day to day you can see the change in their attitude toward Christians."

We feel this is a significant thing God is starting here with the Somali people, and we're grateful to get to be a part of it."

Bird writes for the FMB.

THREE COUPLES

From page 3

start and develop churches and they will be involved in a variety of outreach ministries.

Since 1988 he has been pastor of Vian (Okla.) Baptist Church. He is a former pastor of Steep Hollow Church, Poplarville, Miss.

Born in Chattanooga, Tenn. Caldwell is the son of Maxine Caldwell of Lantana, Fla., and the late Otis Caldwell. Mrs. Caldwell, the former Brenda Carmichael, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Sherman Carmichael of Greenacres, Fla.

She received the associate of science degree from Connors State College, Warner, Okla. She was a secretary at New Orleans Seminary.

The Caldwells have three children.

The couples will go to Rockville, Va. in March for a seven-week orientation before leaving for the field.

Vacation Bible schools draw more than 3 million, 1990

By Ginny Whitehouse

NASHVILLE (BP) — Vacation Bible Schools drew more than 3.5 million participants in 1990, including more than 500,000 prospects for Bible study and church involvement, according to records compiled at the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

Many churches holding Vacation Bible Schools and Backyard Bible Clubs were particularly effective during 1990 in discovering and following up with prospects, according to Willie Beaty, VBS consultant in the Sunday School division.

A total of 526,878 prospects were discovered through VBS, mission VBS,

and Backyard Bible Clubs in 1990, an increase of 5,792 over the 521,086 identified in 1989.

Though the number of Vacation Bible Schools dropped from 33,620 in 1989 to 33,101, a decline of 519 in 1990, the number of people attending them jumped by 89,856, from 3,443,676 to 3,533,532.

"Churches are doing a better job of following through," Beaty explained. More than 275,700 VBS prospects became prospects for Sunday school, and another 62,000 became Sunday school members.

Whitehouse writes for BSSB.

Bylaws Changes Proposed, Mississippi WMU

Proposed changes in the Bylaws of Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union will be presented at the WMU Annual Meeting, March 18-19, at First Baptist Church, Jackson.

Article V — Officers

Present Bylaws — officers to be president and secretary/historian — term of office not to exceed five years.

Proposed Change — officers to be president, vice president, and secretary — term of office not to exceed four years.

Article VI — nominations and elections

Present Bylaws — secretary/historian shall call a meeting of Nominating Committee

Proposed Change — secretary shall call, etc.

Present Bylaws — nominating committee shall select . . . president and secretary/historian

Proposed change — nominating committee shall select . . . president, vice president, and secretary

Article VIII — The Executive Board

Present Bylaws — The tenure of office for area coordinators and associate area coordinators shall not exceed five one-year terms — tenure of members-at-large shall be one, two, or three year terms.

Proposed change — Tenure of office for area coordinators and associate area coordinators shall not exceed four successive one-year terms — Tenure of members-at-large shall be two or three year terms.

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Truckers' ministry on the way



Walter "Preacher" Gardner, First Church, Magnolia, and Herhall Tidwell, Johnson Station Church, cut insulation to put in the truckers' ministry building.



Truckers' ministry building, Pascagoula, October, 1990.

By Ben Stewart

Jack Honea, area coordinator for Area 7 of the Construction Mission Fellowship, took a work crew on Oct. 12-13 to Pascagoula to work on the truckers' ministry building being constructed by the Jackson County Baptist Association. The building will serve a needed ministry to truckers and travelers along Interstate 10.

This mission is being constructed just south of I-10 where Mississippi state Highway 63 intersects. It will be staffed by the Jackson County Association 24-hours a day and will contain a kitchen, chapel, and several meeting or counseling rooms.

Honea assembled a work crew which installed insulation, did electrical work, finished joints on block walls so they could be painted, poured concrete window sills, painted walls, and did general clean-up work.

The crew consisted of a Builders for Christ Construction team from First Church, Magnolia: Dennis Anderson, Frank Bennett, Grant Bennett, Walter Gardner, Jack Honea, Elton Richmond, Ben Stewart, and Pete Whittington; and volunteers from Terry's Creek: Harold Wilson; Bluff Springs: Billy Granger; East Union: Ed Smith and Chuck Grant; South McComb: Jerry Weber and Brian McCarthy; West McComb: Grady Smith; First Church, McComb: Bill Hamilton; Johnson Station: Herhall Tidwell; Calvary: Joe Busby; Enon: Grady Alexander; Four Mile Creek, Escatawpa: Mike Savage, Larry Spooner, Dennis Harrell, and James Matthews; First Church, Gautier: Phil Hunt; and Ingalls Avenue, Pascagoula: Birl Rimes.

Ben Stewart is a member of First, Magnolia.

Letters to the editor

Thanks to Baptist Women "New World Order"

Editor:

I would like to thank the Mississippi Baptist Women of all ages who helped to roll and prepare all the sheet bandages which arrived and were unloaded this week. (These are known as missionary bandages in these parts.)

Nigeria is in a real economic crisis with few Naira to exchange for so many vital things needed in every aspect of life so we are thrilled to have these wonderful bandages which save us pure dollars as we would have to buy from somewhere if we were unable to have these.

In addition to Eku Baptist Hospital, our secondary level hospital, in this area we are sharing these with some of the out-lying clinics which Dr. Tim McCall supervises in the more impoverished areas to the south of us: Ogwagbe, Olomoru, Bokoda and a new one he is opening in Boruku.

Our clinics are full and our opportunities unlimited as we have the privilege of your support as we share the Good News in Nigeria.

Martha Hagood
Nigeria

Editor:

Recently I was elated to find our Sunday School lesson teaching "Respect for Human Life," which leads to opposition of abortion, "a premeditated act of ending the life of a preborn child."

I started opposing abortion on demand immediately after that infamous Roe/Wade decision of the Supreme Court in January of 1973. Had 14 million other Southern Baptists been actively opposing abortion on demand the past 18 years, I do believe we could have prevented the death of many of those 24 to 25 million unborn children.

I surely hope it does not take the SBC as long to awaken to the need to oppose President George Bush's "New World Order," or, some 200 million of our citizens will be long enslaved and subservient to that internationalist body he and his other internationalist friends are striving to complete.

Bob Wells
Hazlehurst

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP) — In a news release dated Dec. 13, 1990, the Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America announced the "All Things are Possible: Call to Prayer and Fasting" campaign, designed to mobilize and amplify the voice of Baptists and other citizens who opposed the prospect of war in the Middle East, to affirm diplomatic initiatives to resolve the conflict and to suggest creative, practical and redemptive ways for Christians to express their convictions.

To underscore and extend this campaign, now that the war has begun, BPFNA Executive Director Ken Sehested has announced a personal bread-and-water fast, to begin on Feb. 13, Ash Wednesday, the beginning of the 40-day (excluding Sundays) Christian season of Lent, and last until Easter Sunday, March 31.

Wild game hunters flock to feast at Parkway, Natchez

By Anne W. McWilliams

If you were a wild game hunter, would you admit that a game warden had given you a ticket? Then you would not have gotten that first door prize at Parkway Baptist Church in Natchez on Monday night, Feb. 11!

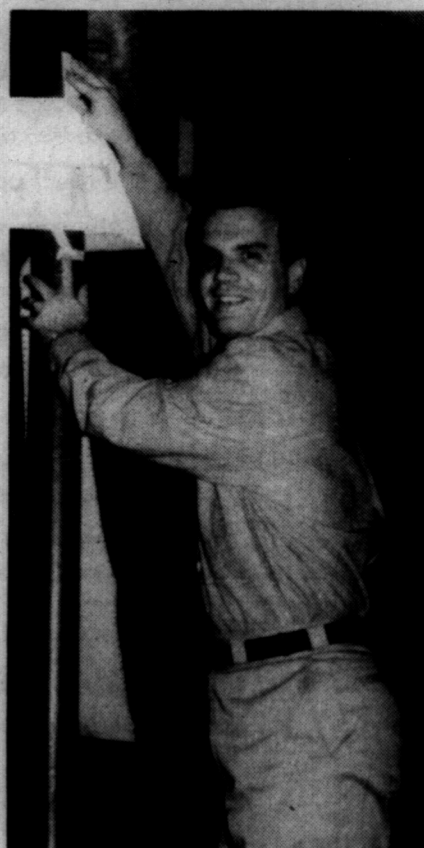
Parkway's fourth annual wildlife banquet drew nearly 250 men and boys from across the city. A door prize was marked for "the one last cited by a game warden"; another went to "the man who lives farthest away"; and a third was given to "the one who brought the most guests." Next year, practice your turkey calling; a prize in past has gone to a winner in that category.

Rattlesnake, buffalo, alligator — anything might be served at one of these banquets. Certainly the menu would include deer, squirrel, raccoon, possum, duck, quail Every man, except the guests, brought a wild game dish that represented his hunting skills and that he (or someone he'd talked into doing it for him) had prepared. One man admitted that his dish was chicken. "After all," he said, "it went wild when I was trying to catch it."

The church furnished food to supplement the supply. John Tuttle coordinated preparation of that. "I'm cooking 'roadkill' stew to serve as an appetizer when the men arrive," he said, standing in his outdoor "kitchen" behind the church. That stew contained rabbit, hog/and other odds and ends.

The wildlife banquet was an

origination of Randy Turner, Parkway's pastor — a duck hunter. "It is a gesture of good will," he said, "a way to get acquainted with others in



Randy Turner, pastor, hangs a banner advertising the fourth annual wildlife banquet at Parkway Church, Natchez.

the community, and to express friendship." Men from other churches and denominations were invited, including the mayor and Board of Aldermen of the city of Natchez.

For the first time, this year's banquet included a guest program personality. Qualitywise, they began at the top. Stephen Kirkpatrick, nature/wildlife photographer from Jackson, showed his magnificent multi-media presentation, "Images of His Glory." Kirkpatrick has shown this in at least 200 speaking engagements, including the White House. Though he speaks in many churches, he said he likes to speak in places where he has opportunity to witness to those who are not Christians, such as hunting clubs, schools, retirement homes, or private galleries. Over 500 of his photographs have been published in 50 plus publications.

Kirkpatrick became a Christian and received his first camera during the same week in 1981. "It was no coincidence," he said. His company, which sells his photographs, is called "Thy Marvellous Works," a phrase of praise from Psalm 9:1.

In his presentation, Kirkpatrick quoted Romans 1:20, ". . . the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead . . ." He said, "By seeing the creation, we see the Creator, and learn to know him better."

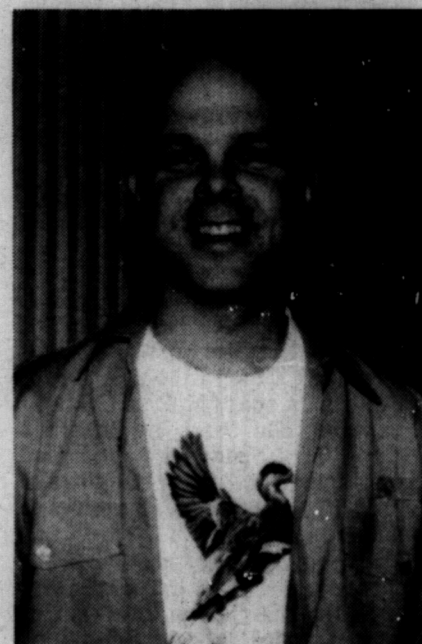


John Tuttle, right, cooks "appetizers" for the men's wildlife banquet at Parkway, Natchez. Watching him are Ted Jackson, center, and Ernest Nicholson.

Referring to Matthew 6:26-30, he said, "If God cares for the birds of the air and the lilies of the field, then surely he will care for us. When we see God's care for his wild creatures, we understand better that he also loves and cares for us."

The record attendance at a Parkway wildlife banquet was 400. When one year, the banquet was omitted from the church calendar, it was brought back by popular demand. According to the pastor, "Some men might feel more comfortable at something like this, in a non-threatening atmosphere. Then if they enjoy the fellowship, they may come back later to a worship service."

A bowl of 'roadkill' stew, anyone?



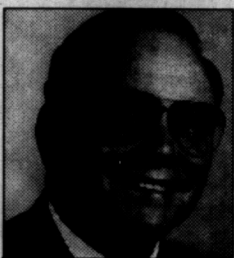
Stephen Kirkpatrick, Jackson nature/wildlife photographer, wears a T-shirt embossed with a section of one of his photographs of wild ducks.

HOUSETOPS

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light: and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the housetops. Matthew 10:27 NAS

February 21, 1991

HOUSETOPS is a supplement to the **Baptist Record** and is produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.



How to Be Saved

Admit you're a sinner Rom. 3:23. "All have sinned and come short of the glory of God." That means that no person is without sin or is all that he ought to be.

Know the penalty of sin Rom. 6:23a. "The wages of sin is death..." Put differently it means that the payoff for sin is to be separated from the Source of Life like a flower cut off from its root system. We must repent (turn from) our sin. He saves us from sin not in it.

Know God's grace and love Rom. 6:23b. "...but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." God doesn't want a person to know the penalty of death; but would rather freely give life through Jesus and His atonement on the cross.

Accept His gift in the person of Jesus Rev. 3:20. "Behold I stand at the door and knock, if any man will hear my voice and open the door I will come into Him..." To accept Him is to become acquainted with Him as a living person and friend, and to have sin forgiven. He becomes Lord of life.

Confess Him and Trust Him Rom. 10:9-10. Tell somebody else what God has done for you. Make it public in a church. Be baptized into a church as a testimony.

Trust firmly that God did what he said He would do. He has saved you. Thank Him. Live the life and remind yourself often that you are forgiven! Keep telling others.

Bill Causey, executive director, MBCB, contributes this first in a series of articles which will deal with how to become a Christian or how to share your faith. Articles by others will follow in future issues of HOUSETOPS.

SMALL CHURCH LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Special Conference for Discipleship Training Leaders

1:00 - 3:15 p.m.

**William Carey College
March 23, 1991**

"Understanding" books will be taught to all church program leaders, 9:30-12:00 P.M.

Sunday School, Discipleship Training, WMU, Brotherhood, and Music.

GIVE *Live God's Word*

"Inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me" (Matthew 25:40, NKJV).

Giving describes Christ's Ministry on earth. His ministry had many expressions: giving God's word; giving love, compassion, and healing; giving forgiveness and eternal life; and, greatest of all, giving His life. GIVE - LIVE GOD'S WORD, Southern Baptists' 1991 stewardship theme, is a call to follow Christ's example in giving.

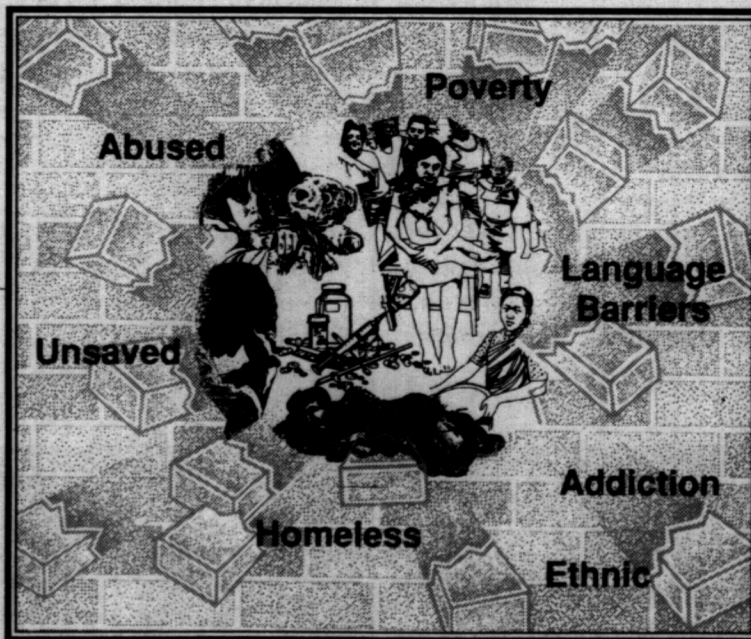
First, we must give our lives to Him. As we daily reflect on surrendering our selves to Him, we find our lives reflecting the same ministries as Christ's life. Giving says it all: giving His word to a hungry soul as we teach and preach, or providing the means for others to do so; giving love, compassion, and healing as we work and live, or supporting the work of missionaries as they provide good news and healing medicine; sharing a word of witness, or taking the time to pray for missions around the world. We

give our lives as we live His word...and, we live His word as we give our lives. Giving our money is another way we live God's word. In our generosity, we answer the call to follow Him.

As we touch the lives of the "least of these", we will undoubtedly find in their faces a stark resemblance to the One who calls us. Hopefully, as we grow in our giving commitment, we will find in their eyes a clear reflection of Him.

Clip art and other supportive materials are available from the Stewardship Department to help your church plan its stewardship emphasis. Call Vicki Prather to place an order, at 968-3800.

Plan Now! **YOUTH WEEK**
MARCH 11-18
Call Robin Nichols
for details 968-3800



For Youth (Grades 7-12), Youth Leaders, and Interested College Students
SPECIAL GUESTS — ...Miss Dottie Williamson, Church Planter from Home Mission Board assigned to Pearl River Association...Dr. Jerry Pounds, Sr., Director of Continuing Education and Assistant Professor of Christian Education, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary...Rev. Sean Keith, Minister of Youth and Education, First Baptist Church, Corinth
RESERVATIONS — by mail only. Send \$28 to Gulfshore Baptist Assembly. See registration form on back page of HOUSETOPS.

**BREAKING DOWN THE WALLS...
To Reach the World for Jesus**

YOUTH MISSIONS CONFERENCE

**MARCH 29-30
Friday 1 p.m.—
Saturday 3 p.m.**

Gulfshore Baptist Assembly

Acteens Convention March 1-2 First Baptist Church, Clinton

FRIDAY

5:15 Queens Banquet
(Miss Mississippi, speaker)
6:45 Worship
(Flag Processional)
7:30 Musical ("Lottie D")
9:15 Meet the People
(Missionaries from Brazil, Mexico,
Chile, Japan, Colombia, Argentina, Ethiopia,
Tanzania, Mozambique, Taiwan, Guyana)

SATURDAY

9:15-4:00 Meet the Missionaries
Social and Moral Issues Conferences
Worship
Lunch (included in registration fee)
Commissioning Service

(To register send \$5 per person, \$2 additional for
Queens Banquet, to WMU Office, Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205.)
(Left top) Karen Brown, Colombia; Dennis and Sherrie Meilstrup, Argentina;
Frances Raley, Taiwan; (Right top) Charles and Nita Boudreaux, Guyana;
Roger and Penny Stacy, South Brazil



March 16,
10 a.m.-
3 p.m.

Calling all GAs and their leaders to join in a day of fun and learning at Central Hills Baptist Retreat, eight miles northwest of Kosciusko. Bring a sack lunch, drinks will be provided.

To register, send \$2 per person, name of church and number attending, to: WMU Office, Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205. Deadline for registration is March 8.

Read the Bible and Pray for BOLD MISSIONS

by Keith Wilkinson, Director, Sunday School Dept.

Adults, youth, and older children are encouraged to grow in their daily Bible reading and devotional life. They are also encouraged to pray daily for specific areas of Bold Mission Thrust. Youth and adult church members are encouraged to join the National Prayer Corps.

"Discovering God's Redemptive Plan" is the theme for daily Bible reading schedules and devotional comments printed in **Open Windows** for adults and **encounter!** for youth.



1991 STATE BIBLE DRILLS

MONDAY, April 15; 3-4:30 p.m.

Gulfport, FBC
Senatobia, FBC

TUESDAY, April 16; 3-4:30 p.m.

Laurel, FBC
Greenwood, FBC

THURSDAY, April 18; 3-4:30 p.m.

McComb, FBC
Tupelo, FBC (churches outside Lee, Pontotoc, Itawamba, Union County, and Tishomingo Associations)
Tupelo, Calvary (churches inside Lee, Pontotoc, Itawamba, Union County, and Tishomingo Associations)

FRIDAY, April 19; 3-4:30 p.m.

Philadelphia, FBC
Starkville, FBC

SATURDAY, April 20; 1:30-3 p.m.

Jackson, Calvary (churches inside Hinds-Madison, Rankin and Warren Associations)

SATURDAY, April 20; 1:30-3 p.m.

Jackson, Parkway (churches outside Hinds-Madison, Rankin and Warren Associations)

SATURDAY, April 27; 1:30 p.m.

YOUTH SELECTION TOURNAMENT
Jackson, Colonial Heights

REGISTRATION —The times listed above for registration are the "suggested" times for your arrival at the Drill location. We do not encourage you to come earlier in the afternoon because of the possible conflict with school hours.

Church and Association Drills are to be held prior to these dates.

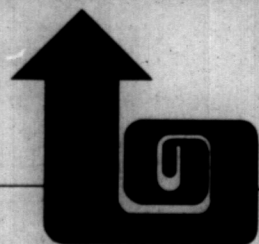
SATURDAY, April 27; 10:30 a.m.
YOUTH SPEAKERS' TOURNAMENT
Jackson, Colonial Heights

**BREAK
THROUGH**

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR THE 1990'S

FEBRUARY 25-26, 1991

Broadmoor Baptist Church
Jackson, Miss.



STATE GROWTH SPIRAL
CONFERENCE

FEBRUARY 26

The Doctrine of LORDSHIP



Help your church understand how Lordship impacts our daily lives. Schedule this important study for your church. Many associations are providing a preview of this doctrine. Contact your associational office to find out the date and location for this overview for your leaders.

Associations may still schedule previews by calling Discipleship Training at 968-3800 ext. 3887.

HOUSE OF

1991 Outdoor Leadership Lab. . .

McCall RA Camp
Pickens, S.C.
May 13-19, 1991

- Outdoor Recreation for Children • Campcraft
- Adventure Recreation • Climbing & Rappelling
- Canoeing • Backpacking • Cycling

For further information contact Robin D. Nichols, at the Mississippi Discipleship Training Department P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS, 39205 (968-3800).



Masterlife Workshop

Harrisburg Baptist Church, Tupelo
May 6-10, 1991



- Begins at 6:30 p.m. Monday
- Concludes at noon Friday
- Participants are certified MasterLife Leaders upon successful completion of the course.
- \$82.50 registration fee covers material for the work shop (Room and board are extra)
- Call Discipleship Training Department, Jackson, MS, to register

Agricultural Missions

The annual state meeting of the Agricultural Mission Fellowship was held in Jackson on Nov. 12 in conjunction with the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

Malcolm Broome presided and introduced Dennis McCall, missionary in Burundi. McCall showed slides of the work being done in Burundi and the conditions under which it is necessary to work.

His presentation emphasized the part played by the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering and that without it it would be difficult to carry out the mission work in that area.

McCall urged support being needed from all Christians both financially and spiritually. He pointed out that daily prayers were needed to support not only his work but that of all missionaries in the field for their continued efforts and for the safety of their families.

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Schultz of Greenville were introduced. He gave a report on the work he and his team had been able to accomplish in Honduras working with Missionary Larry Elliott. He and Tom Espy of Trussville, Ala., went to Honduras in 1990 to try to meet the need of some of the villages which did not have a source of clean drinking water.

It was noted that in this area near San Pedro Sula the shallow water bearing formation was heavily polluted with sewage from the city which causes health problems among the people. Schultz and his team, using the mission's failing 1250 mud rotary drilling rig, found they had to drill down 120 feet before they could find a stratum of water which was not contaminated.

While there, team members in cooperation with Elliott, witnessed to villagers to bring Christ into their lives and to spread God's Word.

Officers of the Agricultural Missions Fellowship were elected during the business meeting. President is Malcolm Broome, Columbus; vice president, James Smith, D'Lo; secretary, Ben R. Stewart, Magnolia; projects coordinator, Bobby Redding, Clinton; and past president, Don Blasingame, Mississippi State.

EMPOWERED

MISSION FRIENDS/GA LEADERS RETREAT



March 8-9

Camp Garaywa, Clinton

Cost: \$21 per person

A time of inspiration, information, idea sharing, and relaxation . . . for leaders and prospective leaders . . .

"Empowered" emphasis led by Stuart Calvert, Ashland . . . Other program leaders . . . Betty Barber, Clinton . . . Paula Stringer, Jackson . . . Indy Whitten, missionary to Equatorial Guinea.

Supper will be served at 6:00 Friday, retreat concludes at 2:00 Saturday. To register, send name of church and association, list of leaders attending, with \$21 per person, to: WMU Office, Box 530, Jackson 39205.

SUNDAY SCHOOL EVENTS

MARCH

- 10 Home Mission Day in Sunday School
- 23 Small Church Conference - William Carey College, 9:30 a.m. - 3:15 p.m.

APRIL

- 5-6 Key Leader Seminar for Sunday School Directors - Baptist Building, Jackson, Begins 7:00 p.m. on the 5th and ends 3:00 p.m. the 6th
- 20-24 Lawrence Association Sunday School Revival -
- 22 Outreach Bible Study/Adult/Youth GrowthStarts - Clarksdale Baptist Church, Clarksdale and FBC, Starkville, 5:00-9:30 p.m.
- 23 Outreach Bible Study/Adult/Youth GrowthStarts - FBC, Cleveland, and West Jackson Baptist Church, Tupelo, 5:00-9:30 p.m.
- 24 Outreach Bible Study/Adult/Youth GrowthStarts - Parkview Baptist Church, Greenville, and East End Baptist Church, Columbus, 9:30 a.m. 1:00 p.m.
- 25 Outreach Bible Study/Adult/Youth GrowthStarts - North Greenwood Baptist Church, Greenwood, and Highland Baptist Church, Meridian, 5:00 - 9:30 p.m.
- 26-28 Monroe Association Sunday School Revival

1991 MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST COOPERATIVE PROGRAM GIFTS

Monthly Needs
1991 Receipts
1990 Receipts (000's)



NBB Awards Entry
Deadline, March 1

Fifth Annual Mississippi Baptists in Broadcasting

April 12-13, 1991, Calvary Baptist Church, Jackson

Awards Banquet Friday, April 12, 7-9 p.m.
Conferences on Saturday, April 13, 8 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

PURPOSE: To provide fellowship, inspiration, recognition, support and training for Mississippi Baptists involved in radio, television, and cable ministries.

AGENDA

Friday, April 12

7-9 p.m. Awards Banquet

Speaker: Jack Johnson, newly-elected
President, Radio & Television Commission, S.B.C.



Dr. Johnson directs the ministry of Southern Baptists in electronic media throughout the United States. He brings to the commission the stature of a denominational statesman, a ministry commitment and a missionary vision.

Saturday, April 13

8-9 a.m. Continental Breakfast
Equipment vendors display

9 a.m.-Noon Conferences

1. Producing a Worship Service
Led by: Ron Harris, Manager-KCBI, Ft. Worth, Texas
2. Creative TV Production—Beyond the Sanctuary (Shooting the one-camera production) Led by: John Grable, Owner, Grable Productions, Dallas, Texas

Noon-12:45 Lunch
Browse with vendors

12:45 p.m. Conferences continue (hands-on)

2:30 p.m. Adjourn

Cost of \$15 includes awards banquet, continental breakfast, luncheon and workshop materials. Limited seating is available. Contact Broadcast Services Department at 968-3800 for registration details.

YOUTH MISSIONS CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

Pastor _____

Church _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Boys _____ # Girls _____

Male Sponsors _____ # Female Sponsors _____

Total Attending _____

Person Sending Registration

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Make Checks payable to Gulfshore Baptist Assembly

Send Registration to

Youth Missions Conference
Gulfshore Baptist Assembly
Henderson Point
Pass Christian, MS 39571

SUPER SUMMER MISSISSIPPI

JULY 22-26

at Mississippi College

Discipleship/Evangelism Training for
SENIOR High Youth

Contact Discipleship Training for Details

Discipleship Training General Assembly Programs

General Assembly programs for Discipleship Training programs are found in the monthly issue of the **Discipleship Training Magazine**. These are appropriate plans for Discipleship Training Directors who conduct these assemblies each week. These are planned for 8 to 10 minutes at the most. Protect the majority of the time for small groups. They need at least 45 minutes.

Families Reaching Families

The new Equipping Center Module, "**Families Reaching Families**," is designed for Christian Home Emphasis, 1991. This six-session study discusses the importance of reaching other families and the role of each family member's strengths and gifts in doing so. Families are guided to share God's love creatively through witnessing, play and recreation, caring, education, social and ethical issues, fellowship and worship.

Pastors and Family Ministry leaders should schedule the studies of Families Reaching Families in adult Discipleship Training groups.

Module: Item 7900-11 \$14.95

Books: Item 5453-91 \$4.15

Order from Baptist Book Store or Customer Service Center, Nashville.

Prayerlife/Experiencing God Retreat

May 20-21, 1991

Wall Doxey State Park, Holly Springs, MS

This retreat is for all interested persons, including those who may be called on to lead either of these LIFE courses in their church.

Register through your Discipleship Training Department in Jackson, (\$35.00 before May 1; \$45 after May 1st).

Congratulations Connie!

The Church Music Department staff salutes Connie Seaney for 10 dedicated years of service as receptionist/secretary. Connie will be retiring as of March 1, 1991. She has certainly played a vital role in our department. We'll miss her!

TIRED OF WATCHING FROM THE SIDELINES?

then Volunteer Missions is for **YOU!**

Here are some current opportunities available through the Foreign Mission Board, SBC (Watch later issues for more opportunities):

EVANGELISM

Team of Musicians (7) Thailand Aug. 5-26, 1991

EDUCATION

English Teachers (50) China July/Aug., 1991
(5 weeks)

CONSTRUCTION

Construction Team (4) France June 17, 1991
(2 weeks)

Construction Team (6-8) S. Brazil Oct. 20-26, 1991
Water Well Drilling (2-4) Honduras July, 1991
(8 days)

If you are interested in any of these projects, you can contact the Volunteer Department of the Foreign Mission Board at 1-800-999-3113.

Get off the sidelines and get involved!!

HOUSE OF GODS



Faces and places

by Anne Washburn McWilliams



Thursday, February 21, 1991

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 7

Devotional

Need your spirits lifted?

"If you can get through that door, we can fit you!" promised Lou. I can still do that, but I might not be able to if I don't enroll in Weight Watchers soon. When you look in the mirror and see a pear-shape, you quickly learn to love the words, "We will custom-make it — just for you!"

The Sunny Spirit is the name of this great shop I've discovered in Mantee. Lou Harrington, one of the owners, said she suggested the name because she wanted the place to sound bright and cheerful — the type of establishment a group of Christian women

would operate. (Somebody told her it sounded like a bar, but I think they just had the wrong kind of spirits in mind.) Their prices — ranging from \$14 to \$30 — gave me a sunny spirit.

The other owner is Dorothy Dobbs. The two of them employ three seamstresses, Hazel Forrester and Irene Griffin, full-time, and Mary Harrington, part-time. All five are members of the Mantee Baptist Church; Hazel and Irene are members of the church's Baptist Women.

Their products, whether made to

order or sold from the racks, are all created there in the store, and are all knits — blouses, dresses, skirts, jumpers, jumpsuits, pants, pantskirts, sashes, cummerbunds . . . Prints and solids form a rainbow of colors.

Lou, a home economics major who has been a school teacher and bookkeeper as well as a housewife, and Dorothy, who was a waitress for 29 years at Holiday Terrace in Houston, Miss., opened the Sunny Spirit two years ago. Since then, they have had trunk showings in quite a few towns within a 60-mile radius of Mantee. Also they have mailed clothes to other states and to at least one other country. By the way, Dorothy is the mother of Rhonda, who is wife of Bobby Williamson, pastor of Park Place Church, Brandon.

Not only are these people producing income for themselves, but they are helping to build Mississippi! And their sunny spirits, I've found out, are also generous spirits. They have given clothes to Paul and Margie Thibodaux, missionaries to East Europe who were formerly pastor and wife at the extremely "mission-minded" Mantee Church. They have promised to make gift outfits for Betty, wife of their present pastor, Malcolm Pinion, and for the Pinion children. (Yes, they'll make children's clothes, too. Any size, remember? Just so you can squeeze through the door.) In addition, they have given clothes to needy people brought to their special attention.

Frankly, it gave my spirits a lift to meet these industrious women and to visit their warm, sunny shop.

"Take my wife and let me be"

By S. M. Henriques Jr.

Finally, my brothers, rejoice in the Lord! It is no trouble for me to write the same things to you again, and it is a safeguard for you (Philippians 3:1).

Frances Ridley Havergal was looking forward to spending five days in Worcester, England, in 1873 with friends. She prayed that God would use her to lead these friends into a joyful relationship with Christ. Her prayer was answered. Unable to sleep because of her joy, she spent most of the last night of the trip in a praise-filled recommitment of her life to Christ. During that night she wrote a hymn, in which she expressed her "renewed consecration" to the Lord: "Take my life, and let it be, consecrated, Lord, to Thee; take my hands and let them move, at the impulse of Thy love."

We sing, "Lord, I give myself to Thee, Thine forever more to be!" but most of the time we shrink from giving ourselves to the Lord in total, absolute commitment. One pastor lamented that the men in his congregation were in practice changing the words of Frances Havergal's hymn to "Take my wife and let me be!"

In his words to the Philippians, perhaps Paul was trying to help the Philippians avoid the trap of thinking that one can be follower of Christ while leaving the actual commitment to someone else. Since 1:27 he had been telling them to "stand firm" in key areas of their lives, but in chapter 3 he had a different burden: they were depending on the wrong things for their salvation. Paul pointed them back to the initial experience they had with Christ, and reminded them that their salvation was built upon a relationship with Christ.

Nothing has changed. Our salvation experience is still depending upon a vital relationship with Jesus that claims his blood as the covering for our sins.

Paul told them in verse 1 that he was repeating his encouragement to stand firm in the Lord as "safeguard" for the Philippians. That word comes from a family of words which mean "certainty" or "firmness."

One safeguard we can use to help us stand firm in our relationship with Christ is that of rejoicing. Philippians has often been called "the epistle of joy," and rightfully so. The noun "joy" or the verb "rejoice" occurs 17 times in only four chapters. It was certainly a major theme of this letter, but it was always tied in with a relationship with the Lord. The Christian's ability to rejoice is inseparable from his relationship to Christ.

A Christian may lose his job, he may be discouraged, his health may be poor, there may be a myriad of seemingly insurmountable problems, but the Christian is to keep on rejoicing in the Lord. Oswald Chambers observed: "A man never knows joy until he gets rightly related to God." Safeguard your relationship to Christ by rejoicing in the Lord.

S. M. Henriques Jr. is pastor of Hillcrest Church, Jackson.



Sunny Spirit workers are, left to right, Lou Harrington and Dorothy Dobbs, owners, Irene Griffin and Hazel Forrester.

Book reviews

Leavell, JoAnn Paris: **DON'T MISS THE BLESSING.** Gretna; Pelican, 1990.

The author is the wife of Landrum P. Leavell, president of the New Orleans Seminary. She teaches a class for ministers' wives annually on the seminary campus. This is her first book.

In the introduction, the author says, "I don't want to miss anything." Yet, the author feels many women and especially ministers' wives and missing the blessing that God desires for each of them. The author seeks to lead the reader to enjoy the Christian life.

This is a devotional book that was written with women in mind, particularly ministers' wives. However, I found some interesting ideas and insights in the book as well. The author shares much about family life and one's personal devotional life. She shares insights on how to be a good hostess, how to manage your money, and how to communicate with your children. It was interesting and helpful. I recommend it.

— Reviewed by Greg Potts, pastor, Heuck's Retreat Church, Brookhaven.

The trouble with doing something right the first time is that nobody appreciates how difficult it was.

Missionaries walk in Annie's footsteps

BALTIMORE — As Southern Baptist home missionaries in Baltimore, Md., Don and Kay Gerlach are walking in Annie Armstrong's footsteps — literally.

Armstrong, namesake of Southern Baptists' annual home missions offering, was born July 11, 1850, in Baltimore, where the Gerlachs have had an active port ministry since 1975.

"She served right where we serve," Kay Gerlach said, "and is buried right here in this city."

The Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions was named in 1934. The money given through the offering now provides nearly half of the Home Mission Board's annual budget and is a major source of support for unique ministries like the Gerlachs'.

The Gerlachs, who started their ministry as volunteers, operate a mobile Baptist center, which houses everything from Bibles to used clothing and is equipped with all materials common to traditional Baptist centers.

Because seamen are often virtually confined to their ships, a 1985 Ford van allows the Gerlachs to have a larger ministry than would be possible in a permanent building.

Like the Gerlachs, Armstrong witnessed to immigrants and seamen docking in Baltimore's port. "I don't know how she got to the water," Gerlach said, "but she visited ships and immigrants who came into Baltimore."

Armstrong helped immigrants get jobs as they came into Baltimore, Gerlach said. "For a woman back in those days, that was remarkable," she said.

The Gerlachs' port ministry started in the back of their own station wagon. With support from the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering, they have been able to purchase the van and keep it stocked with supplies.

The Gerlachs' ministry is not limited to the home mission field where they serve. The sailors, who come from all over the world, take gifts they receive from the mobile center to ports in other countries. One seaman reported to the Gerlachs that all the materials given to the sailors aboard his ship had been given in turn to people in South Africa.

Because it is possible to have seven or eight nationalities represented on a ship docking in port, the Gerlachs keep Bibles printed in 65 languages on hand at all times.

The Bibles are in great demand among the seamen. "Have you ever seen anyone kiss a Bible?" she asked. "We can't keep Bibles. They go as fast as we can get them. Our biggest prayer request is for more Bibles."

For the Gerlachs, Annie Armstrong is more than just the name of an offering.

Gerlach said, "A lot of times we read about missionaries who lived a long time ago. But Annie Armstrong is still here."



WHERE ANNIE WALKED — Don Gerlach (right), a home missionary in Baltimore, takes the gospel to the city where Annie Armstrong worked. Gerlach and his wife minister to ships' crews docking at the Port of Baltimore. Here, Gerlach uses a blackboard to illustrate to a young Turkish sailor that Christ is in Christmas. (Photo by Bob Allen)

THE COMMUNITY FOR CREATIVE NON-VIOLENCE has announced that it plans to construct a "Garden of Stone" on the Ellipse with white crosses representing each American who has lost his or her life in the Persian Gulf. The crosses, planted on Feb. 17 at noon, will remain there until Easter Sunday, March 31. In addition, CCNV began a prayer vigil for peace on the White House sidewalk. The vigil will continue until Good Friday, March 29.

Retreat set for leaders of Mission Friends and GAs

March 8-9 is the date for the first retreat planned for leaders and prospective leaders of Mission Friends and Girls in Action organizations at Camp Garaywa, Clinton. "Empowered" is the theme for the overnight, and activities are planned to provide inspiration, information, idea sharing, and relaxation for participants.

Stuart Calvert from Ashland will lead an emphasis on the theme, "Em-

powered," at each session. Other program personalities will include Indy Whitten, retired missionary to Equatorial Guinea; Betty Barber, First Church, Clinton; Paula Stringer, Broadmoor Church, Jackson; and the state WMU staff.

The retreat begins with supper at 6 on Friday and concludes at 2 on Saturday. Cost of the retreat is \$21 per person. Participants should take linens.

To register, send name of church, association, and names of those attending, along with \$21 per person, to WMU Office, Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205. Deadline for registration is March 1.

GA Day at Central Hills set for March 16

GAs and their leaders are invited to Central Hills Retreat near Kosciusko, March 16, for a day of fun and learning about missions. Activities begin at 10 a.m. and conclude at 3 p.m. Participants will need a sack lunch; drinks will be provided.

Activities will include a missions fair, face painting, games, "CP and You," and missionary guests. Marilyn Graves, mis-

sionary to Chile, will tell about her life and work in Chile. Mary Frank Kirkpatrick, retired missionary to Liberia and Nigeria, will give suggestions about how to pray for missionaries. College students will tell about their work as summer missionaries.

Cost for the day is \$2 per person to cover insurance, registration fee, and cost of the drink for lunch. Deadline for registration is March 8.

To register, send name of church, association, and number attending, with \$2 per person, to WMU Office, Box 530, Jackson 39205.

Names in the news



W. Rex Yancey, left, was honored by First Church, Quitman, Feb. 3, on his tenth anniversary as pastor of the church.

During the morning service, William C. Boone, chairman of deacons, right, presented Yancey a plaque reading in part "appreciation for a decade of dedicated leadership."

Following the evening worship, the hospitality committee hosted a reception honoring Yancey, his wife, Ellen, son, Lee and daughter, Lori. A feature of the event was a love tree, on which all who wished to do so had placed cards expressing congratulations, appreciation, and love.



Ben Kennedy, left, was licensed to the gospel ministry by Friendship East Church, Charleston, on Jan. 20. He received his education at Delta State University, majoring in elementary education and graduated in 1988. He is presently teaching special education at West Tallahatchie Middle School. Kennedy is married to the former Angel Rodgers of Charleston. His parents are Leon and Jane Kennedy of Grenada. J. G. Thomas, right, is pastor.

NASHVILLE — Louie Wilkinson was 12 years old the day *Open Windows* was born. Fifty-four years and a million-plus readers later, he is retiring senior design editor of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's most popular publication. Wilkinson has labored over more than 2,500 daily devotions during his seven-year tenure. As the 12th editor in the magazine's history, he helped carry "Open Windows" over the one million circulation mark in 1986, the year before the quarterly devotional guide's 50th anniversary.

Southwood Church, Iuka, received a \$4,000 grant from the Pastoral and Building Aid Committee of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board with funds provided by the Margaret Lackey State Mission Offering. This grant will be used for pulpit furniture and pews. Charles McAnally, Convention Board member, presented the check to James B. Brown, pastor of Southwood. Since moving into the new sanctuary in October 1990, Southwood has increased its attendance more than 100 percent. There have been nine baptisms and ten members received by letter.

North Korea offers Christian class

PYONGYANG, North Korea — North Korea's Kim Il Sung University has begun offering classes in various religions — a first in the strictly atheist, communist nation. The Christianity class reportedly is being taught by Dong Hong, a former refugee from North Korea who now is a Presbyterian minister and professor at William Carey University's Institute of Korean Studies in Pasadena, Calif. His involvement resulted from a cultural exchange agreement between the university and North Korean educational institutions. So far, however, all students in the Christianity class are other faculty members at the university or government officials.

Team workers needed for Alaska project

The Home Mission Board, Chugach Baptist Association, Hillside Baptist Church of Anchorage, Alaska, and Baptist Volunteer Mission Builders are coordinating a mission project for the summer of 1991.

Work teams are needed to build a 15,000 square foot structure for sanctuary and education space for Hillside Church, Anchorage.

Twenty to 25 volunteers skilled in block laying and concrete work are being sought for the first phase of the project, June 10-22. Gary Reichenbach of Cleveland will be the team leader for Phase 1. For more information, contact him at (601) 843-3021, or 843-4490.

Additional teams are needed for the remaining three phases of the project, led by W. D. Kirk of Doddsville, Clarence Mayo of Cedar Bluff, and Ira Alley of Bruce. Concord Baptist Association of Georgia will also participate in the mission project's Phase 3.

Cost for the trip is \$791.91, and deposits are due soon. Roy Williams is director of missions for Chugach Association, Alaska.

Revival dates

Ridglea Heights Church, Escatawpa: Feb. 24-27; Ben Rogers of First Church, Jacksonville, Fla., evangelist; Gordon Alford, First Church, Vancleave, music evangelist; Glenn Graham, pastor; services at 6:30 p.m. Sunday and pm. nightly, Mon.-Wed.

First Church, Lauderdale: Feb. 24-27; Jim Brannon of Meridian, speaker; Eddie Wells of Meridian, music; Sunday services, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; week night services 7 p.m.; Mike Russell, pastor.

First Church, Rosedale (Bolivar): Feb. 24-27; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Charles Conley, director of missions, Sequatchie Valley Association, Whitwell, Tenn., evangelist; Wayne Polk, First Church, Minden, La., music; David E. Sartin, pastor.

Midway Church, Moss Point: Feb. 24-March 1; winter revival; John Merck, evangelist; Neal and Margaret Suddard, music team; services each night at 7; guest choir each night; Ralph Young, pastor; Jerald Roberts, minister of music.

Trinity Church, Pearl: Feb. 24-27; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Gary Bowlin, evangelist, Brandon, preaching; Jerry Nance, minister of music, Park Place Church, Pearl, music.

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POSITION AVAILABLE: ASSISTANT Daycare Director. Send resume to Personnel Committee, First Baptist Church, Box 466, Ridgeland, MS 39158.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST Church, Belzoni, needs Youth/Education Director. Job description sent to those sending their resume and picture to First United Methodist Church, Box 53, Belzoni, MS 39038.

Alta Woods will premiere hymnal with "year of singing"

Alta Woods Church, Jackson, will premiere the 1991 edition of the Baptist Hymnal scheduled for release this fall, with several events to make 1991 a "year of singing."

On April 21, the church will host Terry York, hymnal project coordinator from Nashville, at all services, which will be built around the new hymnal and worship through singing. York, who has served as minister of music in churches, has been on the front line of gathering the hymns and working with committees for the new hymnal. April 21 will highlight hymn stories, background information, and anecdotes relative to

the over 600 songs in the hymnal.

Alta Woods Church has ordered 828 pew editions, 23 orchestra editions, 9 handbell editions, and various other support editions of the hymnal, inclusive of large print editions. The church is "... a singing church," says the minister of music, Bob Jones. "The hymnal provides the means for the church to express itself in both singing and doctrine."

Three fall, first-Sunday night, congregational hymn sings, on Sunday evenings at 6 will be devoted to the new hymnal. These evenings (Sept. 1, Oct. 6, Nov. 3) will be supported by several music groups of the church.

Collection of deer trophy heads to be shown



The Brotherhood from churches in Winston Association will sponsor the Masters Trophy Collection at the new National Guard Armory in Louisville, 7:30 p.m., Feb. 25. It is one of the largest and most peculiar collections of deer trophy heads. The collection, owned by a group in Texas, is one of the world's largest and is valued at over one-half million dollars. Tickets are \$5 for adults and \$3 for 17 and under. Every person who attends will have a prospect card filled out on him and will receive a gospel tract. For further information call 773-3366.

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Tribune, Lynden, Wash.

Mississippi

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FOREWORD BY JERRY CLOWER

Rose Budd's tasty down-home recipes. "If you and your family grew up in the Deep South, this book may remind you of sitting down to your grandmother's Sunday dinner many years ago."—*The Baton Rouge Advocate*. \$14.95 paper



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Jesus in conflict with falsity and deceit

By Jerry Vardaman

Luke 20:19-26; 45-47; 21:1-4

We are often asked, "Is not one religion as good as the others?" All we have to do to see the falsity of this opinion is to observe how witch doctors or voodoo artists practice their faith. Jesus was in conflict with a great deal of perversion of true religion in his day, and the section of Luke we study this Sunday greatly profits us as we see how Jesus dealt with false teachings and with people who would misrepresent or misunderstand the truth.



Vardaman

Jesus makes correct distinctions — the incident of Tribute

In Luke 20:19-26, we see Jesus' enemies trying to trick him. If Jesus had said that it was not good to pay tribute to the Romans, his enemies would have gone to the Romans to have him arrested and put to death. If he had said that it was good to pay them, all of Jesus' Jewish followers would have abandoned him. He made the right distinctions: it was fitting to pay tribute to God, AND, to Caesar. This brilliant judgment Jesus' enemies could not refute.

Sometime between A.D. 17-19, Germanicus,

BIBLE BOOK

the supreme Roman commander at Antioch, had changed the rules of paying the Romans their taxes. His new rule was that now all dues to the Romans had to be paid in Roman coins. It was cheaper, of course, to pay in local currency, so Jesus' Jewish enemies used a pretext to protest the new rule of Germanicus. They thought that this new rule compromised them since they had to use what they judged was forbidden money, with images, etc. on the hated Roman coinage. Jesus did not even compromise himself in this way since he did not have any money, and his enemies were exposed as hypocrites since they already were using this money with images! Incidentally, since the word used for tribute (when compared with Mark and Mt. here) means census tribute, this shows that Jesus likely died in the census of A.D. 21 (the next one fell in A.D. 34).

Jesus affirms the doctrine of the resurrection. The sabbucees, who tried to intimidate Jesus with the question of the woman who had seven husbands, did not believe in the resurrection. They did not believe in any OT book except those of Moses. In Luke, Jesus showed that the sabbucees could be refuted even in the books of Moses — Moses heard God say at the burning bush that God was the God of Abraham,

Isaac, and Jacob, and that he was not the God of the dead but of the living, for all live unto him. And Jesus went to the Book of Exodus — one of the books which sabbucees accepted — to show the falsity of their doctrines (3:6). What Jesus showed was that the sabbucean doctrines were falsely deduced, and were not in accord with OT teachings.

We have a full measure of false doctrines circulating today. We might think that we can close ourselves off in cells, and escape the necessity of dealing with these false doctrines. But day by day promoters of false doctrine will invade our homes or knock on our doors; or travel over radio waves or TV channels, and Christians must be informed enough to distinguish falsehood from truth, just as Jesus taught us to do.

The doctrine of the resurrection is one of the primary doctrines of our faith (see I Cor. 15). Today we have greater reason to rest our faith in this doctrine than people did who lived before Jesus, for Jesus himself was resurrected, and gave us greater assurance of this truth.

Jesus teaches us about true giving

One of my choicest privileges, which grows out of my profession as an archaeologist, is my opportunity to study coins which circulated in the time of Jesus. Jesus noted a woman in the temple who had very little of this world's earthly goods. But she had a noble and generous

spirit; she gave what she had — two small copper coins less than the weight of our penny. Jesus said that God did not judge a gift by its size and material value but by the spirit in which it was given. Thus, this woman gave more than all of the others who were giving in the temple when Jesus was there.

There were 13 collection boxes where gifts could be given in Herod's temple. They were located in the Court of Women. One of the boxes was for the poor. This woman, who should have been drawing money for herself, was giving what she could. — no doubt at great sacrifice to herself. Perhaps she even gave to the poor! Here is a lesson which still speaks to those who have ears to hear: give to God our best.

A remarkable spiritual leader once spoke on the importance of Christian education in Texas. A young boy came up to him at the end of his speech and said, "Preacher, if I had a million dollars, I would give it all today for Christian education in Texas!" The preacher responded, "How much do you have?" The boy said, "One dollar." That wise pastor said, "Start with that dollar!" With this insight, the event of the woman who gave her two mites agrees perfectly. Thus, Jesus not only condemned religious falsities, but commended the proper spirit, and manner of giving, in true religion.

Vardaman is professor of archaeology, Mississippi State University.

Do you serve Christ for the sheer joy of serving?

By Ruth N. Allen

Matthew 25:31-46

The story is told of an early disciple in Antioch who was not home when a stranger called to see him. His wife directed the stranger to the slum section of the city where her husband would most probably be found. "But I have never met him, how will I recognize him?" inquired the stranger. "Oh," replied the wife, "he will be doing good to somebody." Should Jesus be walking the earth in human form today, he would be found wherever service is needed. Christians should be distinguished from people of the world by their passion to do good.



Allen

In this final parable on the second coming of the Lord, Jesus reiterates the finality of judgment. He reminds us that all will stand in judgment, whether they are small or great (vss. 32-33). No one will be exempt from a judgment which will be based on service to others. For this reason, judgment is reserved until the end of time. The deeds of people, good or bad, will

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live after them. Consequently, diligence must be given to the matter of how we serve Christ as we serve others.

Service is expected from the followers of Jesus (vss. 34-36). Jesus always promised blessings to those who serve him. Our Lord considers service to others as service to himself. Edwin Markham, in his poem, "How the Great Guest Came," tells of a pious cobbler named Conrad who received a vision that on a certain day the Lord would visit his humble shop. The appointed day came and Conrad waited expectantly as the hours passed, but the Lord seemed to tarry. During the day he gave a beggar a pair of shoes, an old crone some food, and led a lost child home to his mother. But Conrad was disappointed that the Lord failed to come.

"And Conrad sighed as the day turned gray, 'Why is it Lord that your feet delay? Did you forget that this was the day?' Then, soft in the silence, a voice was heard, 'Lift up your heart, for I kept my word; Three times I came to your friendly door, Three times my shadow was on your floor; I was the beggar with the bruised

feet, I was the woman you gave to eat, I was the child on the homeless street.' " Thus, the kingdom of heaven is promised to those who serve Jesus.

Jesus commends service that is so natural the server is unaware of rendering the service (vss. 37-40). The type of service desired by Jesus is service which becomes an unconscious habit of life. It is service performed for the sheer joy of serving. It is service which is impartial and places no premium on status or station in life. It is based on the fact that everyone is precious to Jesus.

Those who fail to serve Jesus lovingly will be condemned to punishment (vss. 41-46). Christians will be judged on the basis of service to Jesus and not rewarded on the basis of human accomplishments for one of the greatest surprises of heaven will be those whom he considers greatest. In view of this fact, there are some lessons to be drawn from the Scripture passage:

1. Motive in service — service should have no expectation of reciprocity but should be rendered entirely out of love for Jesus and the individual. 2. Salvation not by "good works" — salvation is a free gift of God. 3. Need of a lost world — giving and praying during the Week

of Prayer for Home Missions and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering provide an excellent opportunity to perform service unto Jesus. 4. The second coming of Christ — the uncertainty of the time of Jesus' return should prompt us to become concerned about reaching people by offering service in the name of Jesus.

There is an old, old story that should be kept alive for each generation. Two men were riding in a sleigh while a blizzard was raging. They were almost frozen and despaired of reaching their goal in safety. Suddenly they came upon another traveler who had fallen in the snow and was nearing death from the terrific cold. One of the men suggested they try to help the stranger; the other, refusing, stated it would jeopardize their own lives. He insisted on proceeding, but the first man decided to get out and do what he could for the fallen traveler. So the latter set to work at the task of restoring circulation and getting the fallen man to his feet. After a long while he responded to the massaging. In the process of saving another, the rescuer himself was saved. The man who refused to leave the sleigh was found frozen to death farther down the road.

Allen of Jackson is the wife of Judd Allen, pastor of Ogden Church, Bentonla.

Fruitfulness: a mark of discipleship, abiding in Christ

By Benny Still

John 15:1-11, 16

The song "Pass It On" has a phrase which says, "What a wondrous time is Spring, when all the trees are budding . . ." I have never seen a tree bud with any type of blossom other than what is common to itself. However,



Still

when comparison is made between trees and Christians, I must admit I have seen Christians budding with all sorts of blossoms that are not common to them. The world needs to see us Christians living consistently with the commands of our Lord. How will

we ever win the lost to faith in Christ if we — his people — are not obedient to his commands?

Some say that fruitlessness is the act of winning converts to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Our fruitfulness for Christ is measured in proportion to the vitality of our relationship with Jesus. The dictionary uses such words as productive, profitable, and fertile to help us understand what "fruitfulness" means. For years I've heard preachers say that the fruit of a Christian is another Christian. Paul said, "If any man

LIFE AND WORK

be in Christ, he is a new creature. Old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new!" (2 Cor. 5:17). I like this definition of fruitfulness: "capable of developing into a new individual."

When we are grafted (saved) into the kingdom of God, we are to grow and mature and reproduce fruit of like nature in Christ. Only then have we responded appropriately to God's discipline as recorded in the first verse of this week's lesson. Only through a close, abiding relationship to Jesus Christ can believers be fruitful. To abide means to remain or stay with something or someone. If we choose to depart from the fellowship of our faith, we wither and become useless in our service to him. In the first days or weeks following our turning away from the Lord, we may coast for a while and fool a few folks with our "good intentions," but apart from Jesus, we are worthless and might as well be "cast into the fire and burned" (vs. 6). Some Christians have broken fellowship with the Lord, and they hang like broken limbs from the Tree of Life. In such a withering condition they cannot be fruitful. I'm so glad to know that our Lord can restore broken branches to their

original fruit-bearing capacities! Such is his love and forgiveness! What a change would take place in our churches and individual lives if we would only emulate our Saviour!

Believers who experience a close, abiding relationship to Jesus can have their prayers answered, since their prayers reflect their oneness with the Lord (vss. 7, 16). Christians who are solely dependent on the Vine for their needs to be met are promised that he is faithful to hear and answer requests made known to him. That assurance does not give us the right to demand anything from God, but it does provide us with the promise that his grace will sustain us in and through whatever situation we may find ourselves. We all know the "Yes!" "No!" and "Wait a while!" answers to prayers. Alan Woodward showed me a fourth perspective. He said, "The fourth way God answers our prayers is, 'Better!' And that means he suits the blessing to meet our needs in a much better way than we could ever have voiced to him." Aren't you glad our Lord knows our needs and chooses to bless us according to his riches and glory through Christ Jesus, rather than through our limited, finite resources?!

The Christian who is being obedient to the Lord by waiting on the Lord for his answers and bearing fruit cannot help but glorify God and

show it in his daily discipleship. We get excited about everything else that happens. I wonder why we don't get excited about what the Lord has done, is doing, and is going to do in our lives? The more we display the expectant spirit, the more apt we are to realize the desired results of our expectations. Fruitfulness glorifies God and is evidence of true discipleship (vs. 8).

Look at verses 9-11. What a thrill to know that we are recipients of the same kind of love with which God loved his Son! Our obedience to God comes from the knowledge of that love and the acceptance of his lordship in our lives. Jesus had my joy in mind when he told the disciples about fruitfulness and obedience. Just think! He's interested in me — and you! That makes me happy. My joy is full and complete knowing that the Saviour cares about me and my needs. That knowledge makes me want to have obedient fellowship with him. It makes me want to tell everyone I meet that they can have his love and experience his joy and peace. When I do that in such a way as to influence folks to trust my Jesus, then I'm bearing fruit — and you are too!!! Let's blossom and bear fruit for him this week and every week!

Still is pastor, Poplar Springs Church, Mendenhall.

THE VILLAGE VIEW



The Baptist Children's Village

Ronny E. Robinson, Executive Director

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Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of the Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

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There is immediate need for mature, Christian couples and ladies, age 30 to 60 years, to serve as child care worker on our residential child care staff. Applicants must be in good physical and emotional health, prepared to accept 24-hour per day residential assignment with children.

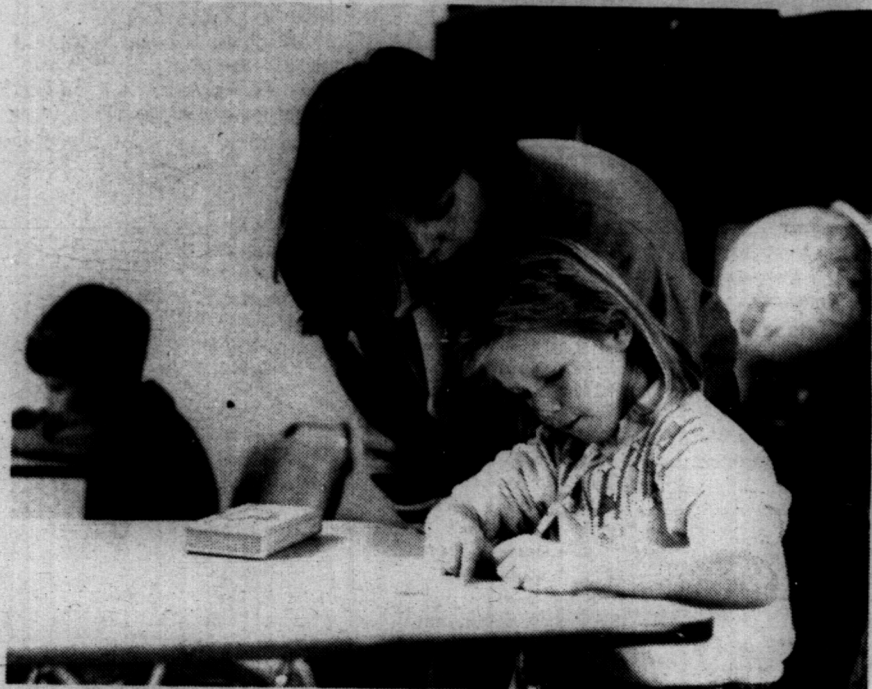
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CHILDREN'S PAGE



LIFE GOES ON — War and temporary displacement haven't stopped school for these children of Southern Baptist workers in the Middle East. Visiting coed Erin Milligan (standing), the daughter of Jordan workers Gerry and Arylis Milligan, help Sarah Rogerson with her studies. Sarah's parents are Sonny and Sissy Rogerson, who work in Jerusalem. After these families and others evacuated to Cyprus as the Persian Gulf war began, they set up a temporary school for the kids. (BP Photo by Mike Creswell)



The first American to enter the Olympic Pentathlon was George Patton, later, General Patton.



There is no single cat called a panther. The name is commonly applied to the leopard, puma, and the jaguar.



Pen Pal Club

Hi!

My name is Scott Nolan. I'm 12 years old and I live in Mize, Ms. I go to Mize Junior High. I would like a good Christian girl or boy to write me. My hobbies are going to church, going to school, welding, building things out of wood, and etc.

Please send me a picture and your telephone number with your first letter.

Please write soon.

Peace on Earth
Love in Christ
Scott Nolan
Rt. 1, Box 265
Mize, MS 39116

Hi!

My name is Gretchen Rinicker. I'm 15 years old. I live in Greenwood. I go to Greenwood High. I go to Valley Hill Baptist.

I would like for a Christian girl or boy to write me. I like to play with computers, and to travel.

Please send a picture if you can!

Love in Christ,
Gretchen

P.S. My address is:
Gretchen Rinicker
402 West Jefferson Ave.
Greenwood, MS 38930

YouthReach to emphasize baptizing teenagers Video brochure introduces newcomers

By Sarah Zimmerman

ATLANTA (BP) — Southern Baptists hope to resurrect an 18-year dip in youth baptisms through a nationwide emphasis called YouthReach.

YouthReach is not a new program, but is a simultaneous evangelism emphasis among Southern Baptist churches, said Dean Finley, youth evangelism specialist with the Home Mission Board.

YouthReach was designed by Finley and a task force of youth leaders from the Sunday School Board, Woman's Missionary Union and Brotherhood Commission. The task force was created to explore ways to increase the number of youth baptisms in Southern Baptist churches.

Youth baptisms reached a peak of 137,667 in 1972 and gradually fell to a low of 79,900 in 1987. That number has increased slightly the past three years, with a projected 86,000 youths baptized in 1990.

Despite a decrease in birth rates after the Baby Boom generation, youth baptisms in Southern Baptist churches have not held steady in proportion to the youth population, Finley said. Additionally, the birth rate in America began growing again in 1977, meaning that today's 13-year-olds are the front edge of an expanding youth population.

For YouthReach, churches are ask-

ed to include two events as part of their year-long strategy for evangelizing youths: a "Gather at the Pole" prayer rally the first day of school and a baptismal celebration service between the third week in August and the third week in September.

The "Gather at the Pole" event is similar to the "See You at the Pole" emphasis promoted by Texas Baptists last year. In Texas, more than 41,000 students met at their school flag poles to pray on the same day.

As part of YouthReach, Baptist students nationwide are encouraged to meet at their school flagpoles 30 minutes before school starts the first day of classes, Finley explained. The event provides an opportunity to pray for the school and other concerns as well as provides a witness to the community.

The second aspect of YouthReach is a baptismal celebration service to be held between the third week in August and the third week in September. The purpose of this event is to encourage teenagers to be baptized and encourage both teenagers and adults to evangelize teenagers, Finley said.

He suggested the celebration service could be the time to baptize all teenagers converted during summer camps and other special events. Also, the celebration could be an opportunity to baptize youths who have made professions of faith but never been baptized.

A pilot project of YouthReach was conducted in five churches: First Church of Jacksonville, Fla.; New Hope Church of Fayetteville, Ga.; First Church of Ferguson, Mo.; Sagemont Church of Houston; and First Church of Snellville, Ga.

Rex Alexander of First Church in Ferguson, Mo., said his church adopted YouthReach into a larger strategy for reaching teenagers. "We identified every lost person or unbaptized person on our Sunday School rolls," he said. "Each department got a list of those people and we became intentional in trying to share the gospel with them during the year."

ATLANTA (BP) — A high-tech version of an age-old visitation tool creates many people's first impression of Heritage Church.

Bob Bullis, pastor of the Suwanee, Ga., church, uses "video visitation" to introduce newcomers to the mission congregation northeast of Atlanta.

The video is a 10-minute VCR tape which prospects can view at home. It shows episodes of the church life and concludes with members' testimonies about why they attend Heritage.

"This is a non-threatening way of introducing people to our church," Bullis says. It also gives him two opportunities to visit prospects.

Primarily, Bullis takes the video to people who are new to the community, getting names and addresses from a monthly newcomers list. He visits prospects, asks if he can leave the video, and returns a week or more later to pick up the video.

"The tape sometimes sparks a family discussion about where they should be in church," Bullis says. "When we follow-up, they're prepared for a church visit."

Heritage is a mission of First Church of Buford, Ga. It is in a growing area sprinkled with small farms,

mobile homes, new housing additions, and urban development. Many newcomers are from the northern United States and never have heard of Southern Baptists, Bullis says. They are typically Catholic, Lutheran, or Presbyterian.

Baptisms shown on the video are the first baptisms by immersion many non-Baptists have seen, the pastor says. Prospects often question the scene when Bullis returns for the tape.

That gives Bullis a chance to share his testimony. He was raised as a Methodist in Maryland. He says the first time he saw a baptism in a Baptist church, "I knew I'd never done that," and it led to his profession of faith.

Some people refuse to take the tape, but about 80 percent of the people watch it, if only to satisfy their curiosity. "If it continues to open doors, I'll continue to use it," says the graduate of Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

Bullis said he got the idea for a video brochure from the advertising campaign for "Here's Hope" revivals sponsored by the Home Mission Board in 1990. He was told it would

cost \$1,000 a minute to produce the video, but with a professional producer donating his time and Bullis writing the script, the total cost was about \$3,000 for 20 tapes.

It was imperative to Bullis that the tape be first-class. "We didn't want the church image to be ruined by a poor tape," he says.

"People watch well-done movies at their home, and we want them to know that Christianity isn't second-best."

A professional crew came to the church three times to film scenes from Vacation Bible School, Sunday morning services, and Wednesday night programs.

The background music for the video is "The Mission" sung by Steve Green. Bullis says the copyright agreement the church received for the music is good for two years, but he hopes the church grows so quickly the tape is obsolete before the copyright permission expires.

Zimmerman writes for HMB.

N.C. Baptist Board adopts motion in support of Lloyd Elder

CARY, N.C. (BP) — The General Board of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina adopted a motion in support of ousted Southern Baptist Sunday School Board President Lloyd Elder, stating the recent action of the SSB trustees has produced a "chilling effect" on the trust level of many North Carolina Baptists.

The general board, the 110-member group which oversees the work of the state convention between annual sessions, adopted the motion with no discussion and only two dissenting votes during their regular meeting Jan. 30.

The motion, presented by John Hewett, pastor of First Church of

Asheville, called on general board President Glen Holt of Fayetteville to send a message of support and encouragement to Lloyd and Sue Elder, "assuring them of our earnest prayers for them during these difficult days of termination and transition."

The motion called for a second message to be sent to the trustees of the Baptist Sunday School Board expressing "our alarm over their decision to force Lloyd Elder out of office and our concern for the chilling effect this decision has had on the trust of many North Carolina Baptists in the programs and publications of the Baptist Sunday School Board."

Baptist Record

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991

Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205

Off the Record

"Within my earthly temple there's a crowd;
There's one of us that's humble, one that's proud;
There's one that's brokenhearted for his sins
And one who, unrepentant, sits and grins;
There's one who loves his neighbor as himself
And one who cares for naught but fame and pelf.
From such corroding care I would be free
If once I could determine which is me."